

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LVI.]

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BIRTHS.

On the 25th September, at Tientsin, the wife of H. D. SUMMERS, of a daughter.
 On the 28th September, at Kobe, the wife of A. J. BUCKLEY, of a daughter.
 On the 4th October, at Tientsin, the wife of D. H. MACKINTOSH, of a son.
 On the 6th October, at "S. Helens," 3, S. Thomas's Walk, Singapore, the wife of H. C. OLIFMANS, of a daughter.
 On the 6th October, at Glengar House, Penang, the wife of W. S. DUNN, of a son.
 On the 8th October, at Shanghai, the wife of THOS. J. ROCHE, of a son.
 On the 9th October, at 4, Sans Souci Terrace, Shanghai, the wife of C. W. THOMAS, of a son.
 On the 12th October, at 4, Macdonnell Road, the wife of E. H. HINDS, of a son, stillborn.
 On the 13th October, at Shameen Canton, the wife of G. W. APPLEBY, I.M.C., of a son, stillborn.
 On the 15th October, at 6, Carne Road, the wife of F. P. DE V. SOARES, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On the 1st October, at the British Episcopal Church, Foochow, by the Ven. Archdeacon Wolfe and Rev. J. MARTIN, Dr. GEORGE WILKINSON, to Miss AMY OKLEY, both of the Church Missionary Society.
 On the 9th October, at S. Andrew's Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. H. C. HODGES, M.A., D. C. LLOYD WILLIAMS, of Newchwang, to LIZZIE, widow of the late T. M. BARTLEY, of Denbigh, North Wales.

DEATH.

On the 2nd October, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, VICTOR LOUIS DUVAL, accountant of the French Municipality, aged 50 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.

LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVALS OF MAIL.

The English mail of the 12th September arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Chusan*, on the 11th October (29 days); the German mail of the 16th September arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Sachsen*, on the 16th October (30 days); the American mail of the 19th September arrived, per M. M. steamer *Salazie* (transferred from the P. M. steamer *China*), on the 19th October (30 days); and the French mail of the 19th September arrived, per M. M. steamer *Annam*, on the 19th October (30 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Petroleum, coal, and iron concessions covering sixteen districts in Szechuen have been granted to separate French and English companies.

L'Echo de Chine knows from an authoritative source that an English expedition from India has penetrated in force into Tibet and is advancing on Lhasa!

A Manila despatch to New York states that the Sultan of Bacolod has written to General Summer, requesting war forthwith. The Sultan wishes to maintain the Mohammedan religion and does not desire American friendship.

French public opinion first viewed the new Convention with Siam as satisfactory, but is now pessimistic, our London correspondent telegraphs. The *Eclair* says that French interests required the possession of the province of Battambang, and adds:—"We have let slip the guarantees of 1893 and abandoned our ancient rights: we have opened to foreign commerce, and, *comme toujours*, all we get in return is—sard." It is stated that this unquestionably reflects a considerable portion of French educated opinion. The Treaty is spoken of with great calmness in Berlin; it is expected not to impair any German interests.

The Russian naval detachment which is to sail from Cronstadt for the Far East in a few days' time comprises the battleships *Pobieda* and *Retvizan*, the cruisers *Pallada*, *Aurora*, and *Diana*, and four torpedo-boats. Rear-Admiral Stackelberg, up to now commander on the Pacific Station, commands the detachment. The *Pobieda's* figures are:—displacement, 12,674 tons; i.h.p. 14,500; armour, belt 9½, gun-position 9, deck 2½ in.; guns, four 10-in., eleven 6-in. Q. F., sixteen 3-in., ten 1.8 in., seventeen 1.4 in., and two light guns; torpedo-tubes, 6; speed, 18 knots. The *Retvizan's* are:—displacement, 12,700 tons; i.h.p. 16,000; armour, belt 9 gun-position 10, deck 4 in.; guns, four 12-in., twelve 6-in. Q. F., twenty 3-in., twenty 3 pr., six 1 pr.; speed, 18 knots. The three cruisers are 29-knot boats, with 6,639 tons displacement and 11,610 i.h.p. and their most powerful guns are 6-in. quick-firers.

The Paris Railway Conference has resolved that European express trains will run over the Siberian Railway, beginning with the next year, three times a week, connecting direct with Port Arthur and Peking.

The Japanese loan is closed. It has been covered about three times. The French Press considers the loan the means to further the arming of Japan. The success of the subscription is acknowledged everywhere.

A newspaper censorship has at last been established at Vladivostok. Until its establishment three weeks ago every newspaper that reached Vladivostok from China or Japan or other places in the outside world had to be sent to Moscow to have all its objectionable parts blacked out before the residents in Vladivostok of any nationality were allowed to read it.

Cholera has broken out afresh in Manila, due to the return of torrid weather. The close of the exhausting rainy season usually brings relief in temperature, but conditions are now as unfortunate as in May. Reduction in the force of sanitary inspectors when the disease seemed to have run its course a few weeks ago now provokes severe comment as an instance of poor economy which saved dollars at the cost of lives.

L'Echo de Chine says that it is cabled from London that the negotiations with the Vice-Minister of Siam on the subject of the questions of Kelantan and Tringannu are virtually terminated. The agreement will be shortly signed. Great Britain has no desire whatever that Kelantan and Tringannu should be separated from Siam, but they must be reasonably governed, and facilities must be afforded to British trade, which shall be admitted henceforward under conditions as favourable as those prevailing by way of Bangkok.

Our local Portuguese contemporary *O Patriota* in a supplement published on the 16th inst. states that, according to a special telegram received at 2.45 p.m., the negotiations between China and the Portuguese Minister have been concluded, the Minister having succeeded in obtaining from the Chinese Government a concession for the construction of a railway between Macao and Canton, and also advantages for commerce and navigation for Macao. *O Patriota* is not permitted to state the particulars of these negotiations, but expresses its pleasure that the rumour regarding the failure of the mission is false.

According to a Shanghai native paper, work on the Canton-Hankow railway line began some time ago, starting from Nangsha to Fatschau, which forms one section, and railway officials deputed by Director Sheng are arriving daily. An office styled the "Canton-Hankow Railway Land Purchasing Office" has been established in the city, the object of which is to buy and pay for the land required by the Railway Company. Whenever the American engineers go out surveying, they are accompanied by soldiers sent by the local officials in accordance with the orders of the higher authorities. So far the people have not created any disturbance. Director Chang left for Shanghai on the 22nd ult. to see Director General Sheng with reference to affairs connected with the line, and was to be absent for about three weeks.

THE LIANGKIANG AND KWANG VICEROYSHIPS.

(Daily Press, 14th October.)

It may naturally be regarded as a favourable sign of improved government in China that the death of H.E. LIU KUNG-YI has been followed by official eulogies of a striking character and by temporary appointments of a satisfactory nature. A Decree of the Empress Dowager creates the late Viceroy a "Baron of the Empire," the title to be handed to his posterity, and also makes him Grand Preceptor of the Heir Apparent. A grant of Tls. 3,000 is further ordered to be given for funeral expenses, and also an Imperial sacrifice, which the Tartar General of Nanking is commanded to perform on behalf of the Emperor. The posthumous designation of *Chung Cheng*—Loyal and Sincere—is given him, which is to be inscribed on a tablet and placed in the temple of Faithful and Good Ministers in Peking. When his remains are taken to his native city for burial the authorities along the route are commanded to place themselves at the service of the family of the deceased statesman. Viceroy CHANG CHIH-TUNG is also commanded to find out how many sons and grandsons the late Viceroy had, so that due Imperial favour may be bestowed on them in recognition of the loyal services of their late parent and grandsire. Such are the posthumous rewards of LIU KUNG-YI. As has already been announced, H.E. CHANG CHIH-TUNG has been temporarily appointed to hold his late colleague's place, while the post at Wuchang is filled by the transference from the governorship of Hupeh of that excellent Manchu official TUAN FANG, whose conduct in Shensi in 1900 saved the lives of many foreigners. These appointments have given general satisfaction and, as we have said, seem to show an improvement in the governmental mind. It would be unwise to build too much upon them, but they give promise of a continuance of enlightened rule in the Yangtze provinces. According to the *North-China Daily News*, it is not considered likely by the Chinese in Shanghai that CHANG CHIH-TUNG will remain long at Nanking, where a Hunanese Viceroy is almost essential, and the fancied candidate, as our Shanghai correspondent telegraphed on the 8th instant, is H.E. WEI KUNG-TAO, Viceroy of Yunnan and Kweichau provinces. This official was not among those whose names were mentioned by the dying LIU KUNG-YI, but he has undoubtedly strong qualifications for the post, if he is not very well known to foreigners. A Hunanese by birth, he served under the Marquis Tso in the suppression of the Kansu Mohammedan rebellion and the recapture of Chinese Turkestan. It is a distinct item in his favour that he was a deadly enemy of TUNG FU-HSIANG. The *North-China Daily News* further points out that WEI is actually the head of the Siang Army, of whom he has 15,000 men now in Yunnan. His appointment to the Liangkiang would appear to be a guarantee of peace. Our Shanghai contemporary discussing the possible candidates for the post at Nanking, says in conclusion:—"If a man hailing from some other province than Hunan expects to hold the seals of the Liangkiang Viceroyalty for more than one year, he would have to exterminate the *Kolao Hui* society first, and that means also the 200,000 or so 'braves' of the Siang Army, which would bring about such a sanguinary upheaval of the Chinese Empire that loss of independence would probably be the result." NIEH CHIH-

KUEI, the new Governor of Chekiang, another possible choice, is without military training, and therefore unsuitable for so critical a command as that at Nanking. Unless CHANG CHIH-TUNG is retained in the position in which he is now acting, the appointment of WEI KUNG-TAO appears practically forced. It seems possible that the evacuation of Shanghai by its foreign garrison, which it was arranged with the late LIU KUNG-YI should take place on the 1st proximo, is being delayed until the quiet of the Yangtze Valley is guaranteed by a definite appointment to Nanking. Otherwise it is difficult to imagine why the delay is necessary.

(Daily Press, 16th October.)

The importance of the appointment which has to be made to the vacant Viceroyalty at Canton is not likely to be underestimated by those who have watched the events of recent years in South China. We have always deprecated the absurdly exaggerated stories published in some of our contemporaries with regard to what they styled the Southern Rebellion. As will be remembered, it had finally to be admitted even by those who had been prominent in describing crushing Imperial defeats and sensational captures of cities by the rebels that the troubles in the Two Kwang provinces at the end of 1901 and beginning of 1902 were hardly more than part of the normal condition of this turbulent section of the Chinese Empire. The home Press was of course flooded with vivid descriptions of non-existent rebel victories, but, accepting the principle, we suppose, of *Ex China semper aliquid falsi*, manifested no surprise on learning that it had been deceived. We do not, however, contend that the situation in the Canton Viceroyalty, and more particularly in Kwangsi, was to be regarded lightly at any time during the last two years. A province in a perpetual state of disturbance, even if the semblance of authority is maintained, is a constant source of danger to its neighbourhood. Hongkong's peculiar position makes it especially sensitive to the effects produced by disorder on the mainland. Hence trustworthy information as to the progress of affairs in the Kwang provinces is very valuable to us; unfortunately it is almost impossible to procure. Our Canton correspondent corroborates the reports of the northern native papers that the condition of Kwangsi is getting graver than it was before. A Shanghai vernacular journal's southern representative sees the hand of KANG YU-WEI in the Kwangsi troubles and anticipates his success in Kwangtung, Yunnan, and Kweichau. We have been too much threatened with the bogey of KANG YU-WEI to pay attention to all the rumours of plots attributed to him. Nevertheless we believe that the Chinese both here and in Canton are convinced that KANG is at work at the present moment. He and his colleague SUN YAT-SEN have made great capital out of the word "Reform," but it cannot be said that their methods have succeeded in retaining for them much sympathy among foreigners, anxious though the latter may be to see China reformed. In the first place, it is hardly to be expected that a movement which at least tolerates the adhesion of so many bad characters as have posed as rebels in Kwangtung and Kwangsi will commend itself to those whose interests are bound up with the maintenance of peace in those provinces. Nor do the mass of educated Chinese who desire reform for their country look on KANG YU-WEI and his party with much pleasure. We have ourselves received

representations from "reformers" of quite a different type, who deprecate any connection whatever with KANG YU-WEI and SUN YAT-SEN and under the name of the "League of Patriots" guarantee that when their movement is matured it will be truly formidable. This League (dating naturally from the time of the MINGs) claims the adhesion of officials, scholars, native Christians and others in the Treaty Ports and in the interior of China, as well as abroad. Of the nature of its propaganda we have no information. If it is intended to raise yet another rebellion we fear that its assertion of patriotism is at least open to question. A general upheaval in the Southern Provinces in the near future threatens to doom the existence of China as an Empire, for it could not fail to involve several foreign Powers and it is obvious that the patience of the Powers was tried very nearly to its limits during the crisis of 1900. Well-wishers of China must look forward with the gravest apprehension to the possibility of widespread disturbances in any portion of the Empire, and true patriots must equally see that it is not by fire and sword that their country must be reformed. There is indeed a great deal of inconsistency shown by many of the so-called reformers in China. The late H.E. TAO MU was an able and enlightened Viceroy, with much sympathy for reform and with the courage of his opinions; yet during his term of office at Canton he had constantly to contend not only with avowed pirates and brigands but also with the followers of KANG YU-WEI, who like him professed their anxiety for reform. Under the rule of a tyrannical and conservative Viceroy, a genuine revolt on the part of the progressive party might command the respect of foreigners. As matters have stood, it is impossible not to think that some of the reformers have seriously compromised their cause. It is earnestly to be hoped that such associations as the League of Patriots will pause to consider whether it is consistent with their desires to risk the independence of China in a desperate attempt to force from the Central Government changes which all the Western Powers and Japan are striving to bring about by gradual education. They should remember the disastrous effects of H.M. KWANG HSU's effort to convert China by instantaneous process into a modern country. It is not by much violent processes that China can be changed. The very violence defeats its objects. Unless wiser counsels prevail among the Reform party, the result will be not to help the country on the road to progress but to disintegrate it entirely, in which case China may become enlightened but will certainly not be free any longer. Japan suffered not a little when she made up her mind to make Western civilisation her model. China, with the eyes of all the Powers greedily fixed upon her, cannot hope to escape as lightly as Japan.

The *Singapore Free Press* hears, on very good authority, from Bangkok that a movement is afoot to oust the British officers employed in the Siamese Customs, and replace them by Frenchmen.

A Canton despatch to Shanghai states that owing to the Peking Government having been informed that the proscribed Reformer, KANG YU-WEI, is the chief author and instigator of the Kwangsi "rebellion," and that he is reported to be fully occupied in organising a similar great rising in Kwangtung and the Yun-Kuei provinces, secret orders have been issued to the Viceroys and Governors of the Two Kwang and Yun-Kuei provinces to use every endeavour to capture KANG YU-WEI, who is believed to be at present in Canton.

H.E. TAO MU'S DEATH.

(Daily Press, 13th October.)

The death on Friday morning of H.E. Tao Mu, late Viceroy of the Two Kwang provinces (announced in our Canton correspondent's letter to-day) robs China of yet another upright official. TAO MU was not of course a man to be put in the same class in the matter of ability as LIU KUNG-YI. He was, however, wise and just in the exercise of his duties and, while not exactly a member of the Progressive party, he showed a very friendly spirit toward foreigners and was in sympathy with reform. Though an old man—he was about seventy-eight years old—when he came to Canton he introduced a great number of improvements during the period of his Viceroyship, including the foundation of a new university conducted more or less on Western lines and the support of schools generally throughout his provinces. TAO MU was by birth a native of Wuchiang, in the province of Chekiang. He obtained his *Hanlin* degree in 1868. His first office, as far as we know, was as district magistrate of Kansu, in 1874; seven years later he was made prefect of Lanchow, capital of Kansu, and in 1884 *taotai* of the same city. In 1885 he was transferred to Chihli, being appointed Provincial Judge. He went to Shensi as Treasurer in 1888, to Chinese Turkestan as Governor in March, 1891, and to the Viceroyship of the Shen-kan provinces at the end of 1896. In 1900, when the Imperial Court was at Hsianfu and the late LI HUNG-CHANG had been called up North from Canton, H.E. TAO MU was sent down to succeed to the onerous post of Viceroy of the Two Kwang. Coming after a stern and able, if not scrupulous, official like LI HUNG-CHANG, he was anxiously watched, for it was felt that weakness or hesitation on his part might plunge South China into turmoil. The deceased Viceroy from the outset acted in a manner to win the admiration of all but those whom his justice and honesty were bound to alienate. If not so successful as LI HUNG-CHANG in dealing with piracy, possibly because he was not a ruthless man like LI, TAO MU reorganised the Canton forces, kept the peace in Kwangtung during the northern troubles, and at least prevented the Kwangsi rebellion from assuming dangerous proportions. He was incapacitated by serious illness for many months previous to his death, and indeed it has more than once been reported previously that he had succumbed to his afflictions. Unfortunately now there seems no room for doubt, and we have again within the space of less than a week to mourn the loss of that rarity in China, a good official.

OPIUM AND THE ANTI-OPIUM CRUSADERS.

(Daily Press, 15th October.)

We had almost hoped that with the nineteenth century we had seen the last of that fatuous band of fanatics who for so many years squandered money and wasted energy in the futile attempt to abolish the opium trade. The crusade was kept actively alive so long as silly people could be induced to contribute money for the maintenance of a secretary and staff, who, in order to justify their *raison d'être*, poured a flood of pamphlet literature—containing hysterical appeals and distorted figures and facts—upon an unsympathetic public. The stream of subscriptions, however, dried up at length: the public grew in time to recognise the rank absurdity of a movement to deliver China from a traffic her rulers really

regard with indifference or as a handy means of adding to the revenue. But, like many other foolish movements, the anti-opium agitation means to die hard. That it is not yet dead is proved by REUTER'S telegram of the 9th inst., which announces that a meeting of the Society for the Suppression of the Opium Trade has been held at Lambeth Palace, the Archbishop of Canterbury presiding. No doubt the usual exaggerations and misstatements were made to do duty again on this occasion, for we are further informed that "the meeting stigmatised the opium trade as 'a blot on the English name and an injustice to China.'" It is much to be regretted that the head of the Anglican Church should have identified himself with such an agitation, and we can in charity only regard the fact as a proof of senile decay in his Lordship. The cry of injustice to China is, as the executive members of the Society are well aware—unless, as is probable, they are quite a new lot—has been again and again disproved, and Chinese officials have themselves disavowed sympathy with the aims of the Society. All that the Chinese Government desires is liberty to tax the drug to their heart's content, in order to increase the already large revenue derived from it. They have recently, in order to accomplish this object, raised the tax by a hundred per cent., and in order to do this legally they have avowed their intention to increase the duty on native drug to a parity with that levied on the imported opium. They are running a risk, it is true, of killing the goose that laid the golden eggs, but Chinese are invariably ready to take that kind of risk, as shown in their refusal to lighten the export duty on tea and enable it to compete with the products of India and Ceylon. The mandarins are, of course, quite willing to accept any advantage that may arise from the talk of injustice to China, by making political capital of it, but they are not prepared to go beyond a passive acquiescence in the statements as to the injury done to China in allowing the Chinese to purchase the pure drug of India to use instead of or in conjunction with the cruder product of Yunnan and Szechuen.

It is somewhat of a coincidence that this revival of energy on the part of the Society for the Suppression of the Opium Trade should be almost synchronous with the attempt by the Chinese authorities to double the duties on Indian and Persian Opium. It is also noteworthy that Sir HALLIDAY MACARTNEY, the active agent of China in London, has just received the decoration of the Double Dragon, and permission from His Majesty the King to wear it. Whether Sir HALLIDAY MACARTNEY has had any recent communication with the anti-opium society we are unable to say, but it is not unlikely that he is cognisant of all that it does or proposes to do. However that may be, we trust the Government of Mr. BALFOUR will not—any more than that of Lord SALISBURY—be led into any action affording encouragement to this agitation. There is no doubt that the opium trade is just as legitimate as any other trade, and that the drug is in no sense forced upon China. No sustained effort has ever been put forth by the Chinese Government to combat the habit of opium smoking, but on the contrary opium-smoking saloons are permitted if not licensed in all parts of the Empire, and tacit encouragement is afforded to the cultivators of the poppy in various provinces by the imposition of a lighter duty on the home-grown drug. Indeed, in several provinces, the duty collected on native opium is almost

nominal, smuggling being connived at by the officials. If the Chinese Government were so disposed, it would be a comparatively easy task to carry out the decree prohibiting the cultivation of the poppy in the Central Kingdom. But beyond asseverations to the effect that the production is illegal and the issue of sundry orders and decrees, no really serious attempt has been made to even restrict the illicit cultivation of the drug. The mandarins have openly treated the law as a dead letter and have unblushingly allowed the proprietors to cover the land with the scarlet flowers of the flaunting poppy. It is idle for the Imperial Government to pretend that the provincial authorities have been alone to blame for the failure to enforce the decree prohibiting the cultivation of the poppy, for the fact that it is so cultivated has been repeatedly recognised in official documents. This being the case, and the fact being that considerably the larger portion of the opium consumed in China is raised in Chinese territory, it is surely time for even the good people who hail from Exeter Hall to drop this ridiculous agitation against a trade which the Chinese themselves do not oppose, and which after all is less harmful than the liquor traffic carried on by all the civilised states of the Western World. It is right that common-sense should rule in this matter as in all others connected with trade and commerce.

PUBLIC WORKS IN HONGKONG.

(Daily Press, 17th October.)

In his speech in the Legislative Council on the 9th instant, His Excellency the Governor made only the very slightest reference to Public Works. He stated, however, that a sum of \$20,000 for the preparation of the foundations of the new Post Office on the Praya had been placed on the Estimates, and expressed the hope "that in a short time the Colony will have the benefit of this much needed improvement." This hope is, we are sure, most fervently echoed by all the colonists, who would like very much, as a preliminary measure, to see the contractors' materials with which the site is at present cumbered cleared away and a commencement made, without any further delay, of the necessary piling, which even if put in hand promptly will not probably be completed in less than nine months. The preparation of the site for the new Law Courts has already consumed two years, and though it may cheerfully be conceded that this has been phenomenally slow progress, yet the work being under the P.W.D.—which may be translated the Procrastinating Works Department—may nevertheless take double the time ordinarily required under outside supervision. Of course we exclude from comparison the corner site between Ice-house Street and Des Vœux Road, for that work has practically stood still for years. We may be permitted to hope, however, in view of Sir HENRY BLAKE'S hope, that the placing of \$20,000 on the Estimates as a provision for the preparation of the foundations of the new Post Office really means that, the money being voted, the work will be actually proceeded with. It is true that the money for the erection of the Blake Clock Tower was voted and tenders called for, but, so far as the public can discern with the naked eye, no trace of the structure is yet to be seen. The site is as bare and as clean as a tennis-court, and the sun beats down upon the place where the waiting-rooms for passengers using the wharf should be with pitiless force and blinding large, emphasised by the vicinity

of the water. The old Clock Tower, too, still rears its head within the crowded confines of the Hongkong Hotel and the Post Office, its clock-dial visible only at a short distance, and of no practical use to any but the favoured few residing within reach of its strike. It is clear, therefore, that though the money may be voted, though tenders may be solicited, it does not follow, by any means as a matter of course, that the work of construction will even be commenced. Between the cup and the lip there is indeed many a slip when the realisation of the draught depends upon the P. W. D. In this case of the Blake Clock Tower, however, there was the absence of the Governor to be taken into account. That may have made a difference. In the case of the new Post Office, His Excellency will be here to see that "this much needed improvement" is commenced and carried on. This may prove a task beyond even a Governor's powers, but we may at least hope with him. "Hope springs eternal in the human breast," and we shall continue to hope that some day in the present century—it is very young yet—the Blake Clock Tower, the new Post Office, yea even the new Law Courts, may see completion.

Seriously, however, we must confess to considerable disappointment that no further reference was made in the Governor's opening speech to these important works or to the progress of the subsidiary water-works in Hongkong and the new reservoir at Kowloon. We understand that some progress has been made in the construction of a new reservoir at Tytan and that the Kowloon works are proceeding, though slowly. It would, however, have been satisfactory to have received an assurance from His Excellency that before another winter came round the water-storage would be materially added to and the prospect of future water-famines rendered more remote. At present, matters in this respect are in an eminently unsatisfactory position. Owing to the cessation of the rains nearly a month earlier than usual, the water-supply is now little greater than it was when the rains finished last year. We are prepared to go on short commons sooner, and we have learned some lessons in the way of economy, but we cannot make the supply go much further and have got to face another possible famine. What steps does the Government propose to take to meet this scarcity? It would be interesting and perhaps reassuring to know. It would also be a matter of great interest for the citizens of Victoria to learn something definite as to the progress of the great Public Works which have, after considerable delay and discussion, been sanctioned by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. There seems to be no good or adequate reason why these interminable delays in the prosecution of Public Works should take place. That they do occur invariably, however, so far as buildings are concerned seems to admit of no dispute. The new building for the Government Central School was not completed until more than ten years after its site was decided upon, and the Market House was not erected before the lapse of long years of provoking delay, first as to the selection of a site and then as to plan of the building. It is only fair to the P.W.D. to record that, as a rule, when these Public Buildings are erected they are very substantially built and prove both durable and useful. But this is cold consolation to those who are asked to pay the money and do not get their money's worth. It is surely rather hard and certainly not fair that the present colonists should be called upon to pay for works which another generation are to enjoy, while

they have to endure the discomfort of using buildings long out-grown or which have for many years fallen into dilapidation or become unsuited to the requirements.

THE QUESTION OF A MUNICIPAL COUNCIL FOR HONGKONG.

(Daily Press, 11th October.)

At the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 9th inst., H. E. the Governor, addressing the Council for the first time since his return from England, informed his expectant hearers what immediate steps it is proposed to take with regard to the reconstruction of this city on a more sanitary system than that at present existing. This reconstruction, said Sir HENRY BLAKE, must necessarily be a slow process. "I have placed," he continued, "the sum of \$100,000 upon the Estimates for the purpose of resumption and compensation during the coming year." In another column to-day we publish a letter from Mr. H. E. POLLOCK, K.C., dealing with this subject. Mr. POLLOCK submits that a sum of \$100,000 only in the coming year cannot be considered as by any means adequate in view of the enormous nature of the task which requires to be dealt with and of the annual recurrence of plague. We think that the community will endorse Mr. POLLOCK's remarks. Hongkong has a tremendous evil to grapple with, as is recognised by all, officials and private residents alike. A Bill of a very sweeping nature is before the Legislative Council, which if passed without serious mutilations promises to reform the present intolerable state of affairs, and which will then involve the outlay in the near future of very large sums of money. In any case it is plain that much money will have to be spent in order to make this a fairly healthy colony. It is therefore hardly satisfactory to see a small temporary vote suggested with which to begin the work. Mr. POLLOCK proposes that the Government should take as its model a naval ship-building programme, and should prepare a definite and thorough scheme of improvement, spread over five or seven years, and intended to be carried out vigorously and continuously, irrespective of governmental changes. Such a scheme is more statesmanlike, it must be admitted, than the merely temporary proposal of the Government.

It will be seen that Mr. POLLOCK goes on in his letter to urge the necessity for a Municipal Council in this Colony and to suggest a kind of plebiscite on the subject, followed, if a large majority is in favour of a Municipal Council, by a petition to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, praying for Hongkong to be granted adequate representation in municipal matters. At the time when the petition of June, 1901, to the Secretary of State was being drawn up, the Committee which had the matter in hand actually considered the question of inserting an appeal for a Municipal Council and decided that it would be more suitable to make that appeal in a second petition. The late Mr. J. J. FRANCIS and the Hon. Secretary were deputed by the Committee to prepare such a petition, but the death of the former prevented this, and the scheme was not carried out. It is not necessary for us here to restate the case in favour of a Municipal Council for Hongkong. Mr. POLLOCK mentions some strong arguments, and our readers who followed the discussions of 1901 will not require to have what then appeared in these columns recapitulated. The case against the present condition of municipal government is overwhelming, and no hope can be placed in the methods adopted, under compulsion, to reform it.

These methods are in the first place too dilatory and tinkering, and that charge sufficiently condemns them in view of the supreme urgency of reform for the sake of the whole Colony. We believe that the present Government is sincerely anxious to do what it can for Hongkong's welfare, but it seems unable to overcome the obstacles lying in the way. The public, on its side, lacks the means of making itself heard, in the absence of adequate representation in Council. Hence it comes that an official can complain of the public not backing up the Government, while at the same time the public can see little chance of its views being fairly attended to.

FRANCE IN SOUTH CHINA.

(Daily Press, 18th October.)

In its issue of the 10th instant, our Shanghai French contemporary, *L'Echo de Chine*, attempts to deal with the discussion in the Hongkong Press on the subject of French activity in the Macao neighbourhood. Particular mention is made of an article which appeared in these columns as long ago as the 6th August. We do not know what prompted the French journal so late in the day to criticise our statements, especially as no attempt is made to refute any of them. Lord CRANBORNE, it may be remembered, in June and July professed a certain amount of ignorance with regard to French proceedings at Ca Tai and Yeh-ti, and we ventured to suggest that his answers to questions in the House of Commons were not conclusive. *L'Echo de Chine*, on the contrary, finds Lord CRANBORNE's remarks perfectly satisfactory—why should it not, indeed?—and ridicules our statements as unsupported and therefore worthless. As a matter of fact, the Ca Tai affair was amply witnessed to, while with regard to Yeh-ti it was evident at the time that the French agents who surveyed the bay did not wait until European sightseers came over to watch their proceedings. The Yeh-ti survey is therefore dismissed by our contemporary as *une absurde histoire*. We had thought that the argument which resolves itself into the retort of "You're a liar" was condemned by good taste.

But *L'Echo de Chine* goes on to confess total ignorance of any French railway schemes in Kwangtung and doubts the existence of any "good authority" who can testify to their existence. In the same issue of the *Echo* we find the statement, *de source autorisée*, that an Anglo-Indian force has penetrated Tibet and is advancing on Lhasa. We hasten to assure our contemporary that our authority on the matter of Kwangtung railways is not of this kind nor of the kind which reported the British occupation of Kelantan. A reference to the Government of French Indo-China will give all the information required as to French railway projects in Kwangtung. We are quite prepared to accept French official evidence in this case. We further admit that French commercial enterprise in Southern China is as legitimate as that of any other nation. All we wish to combat is the monstrous claim that the Two Kwang Provinces, Kweichau, and Yunnan constitute a French "sphere of influence." South China is not Siam, and a similar course of spoliation to that of which the last development was shown in the new Franco-Siamese treaty cannot be tolerated in a region where British interests are concerned so much as in the four provinces just mentioned. Even the inaccuracies and ignorances of a British Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs cannot bring this to pass.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 16th inst. in the Board Room. Present:—Dr. J. M. Atkinson Principal Civil Medical Officer (President); Hon. Dr. F. W. Clark, Medical Officer of Health; Mr. F. J. Badeley, Captain Superintendent of Police; Mr. E. Osborne, Mr. Fung Wa Chun, Mr. Lau Chu Pak, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

CLEANSING OF THE COLONY.

Mr. OSBORNE moved, in accordance with notice previously given, "that the Government be asked to sanction a general cleansing of the Colony similar to that which took place last winter, but omitting fumigation." He said:—The plague season of 1902 is now closed, and I think the Sanitary Board should take steps to put to practical use the lessons we have learned. The outbreak of 1902 was not proportionally so severe as some of those of previous years, but I think it will be generally admitted that it was more spread over the Colony. Doubtless there are people who will say that this state of affairs this year is in no way due to our efforts; they will say that Canton, Macao, and neighbouring places were equally fortunate, and will of course oppose any repetition of what took place last winter. But I think myself that fair-minded men will agree that we are entitled to assume that the measures taken by the Sanitary Department and the energetic cleansing work generally done by the sanitary officials had a most marked effect in the keeping down of plague, and if this is so, we are entitled to ask the Government that these measures should be continued; it is for that purpose that I bring forward this motion. Speaking from my own personal experience, as being connected with about two thousand Chinese, I can say that whereas in previous years a large proportion succumbed to the disease, not one single case occurred during this last outbreak, and I believe that that result was solely and wholly due to the extermination of the rats and the keeping of the premises clean. Now, sir, the only objection which anyone, including the Government, can have to this proposal, is on the score of expense. We all know that the preventive measures taken this year have been most costly, but with practice we shall also learn economy, and there will be no need for squandering money in the reckless fashion of this last year. I think we can again carry out all the measures of prevention and reform carried out before, but with the experience gained we can carry them out a great deal more economically. In fact, the Medical Officer of Health tells me that this cleansing need not cost more than about \$20,000. For my part, I should like to see a special tax imposed upon the residents of this Colony for plague prevention alone. I think that some such possible means for the prevention of plague, being constantly before the people, would have a more marked effect, and would teach them probably to keep their places clean. I believe that if we could in some way bring home to the Chinese, in their tenement houses, that "dirt" meant "dollar," we should probably have less dirt and more cleanliness.

Hon. Dr. CLARK—I beg to second the motion.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK—Sir, I beg to oppose the resolution, which is to repeat almost the same measures as those tried last year, which were not attended with such results as to justify the large amount of money spent and the considerable amount of trouble, hardship, and loss inflicted on the inhabitants, besides being attended by a wanton waste of precious water, which the Government has of late been so careful of in order to prevent the occurrence of another water famine. Furthermore, it is by no means certain that the reduction in the number of plague cases during the last season was due to the general cleansing and disinfection; it was due, I am inclined to think, to the long and unusual drought we had. According to our experience, the dryness of the weather is the best and surest disinfectant, and every year no sooner does the dry weather set in than the plague begins to abate and then disappears altogether. But I say that if these measures go on—cleansing and disinfecting—they should be carried out properly, and this year they were not carried out properly. The practice apparently was to cleanse a few houses and then to leave them for a few months or until the next season; in the meantime the houses became as

infected as before. All the houses in the Colony should be cleansed and disinfected simultaneously and regularly, at fixed intervals, and in order to do this the Board must at least have the sympathy and co-operation of the inhabitants. Instead of sending out gangs of reckless and thieving coolies to harass the people, it would be to the benefit of both if the Board were to give every facility to induce people to cleanse their own houses at certain periods. I am sure the inhabitants would be very glad to assist in carrying the work on, especially if it was brought home to them that by doing so they were likely to prevent plague.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN—Sir, I think my Chinese colleague does not exactly oppose the motion; he is in favour of cleansing, and so am I, for there is no question that if properly carried out it is a very useful measure to adopt. I think we ought to have cleansing, but I agree with Mr. Lau that the way in which the cleansing was carried on last year was not very satisfactory. I think we had two very good inspectors in charge, but I understand that one is away now and the other engaged on different duty. We ought to be very careful in getting inspectors to take charge of the cleansing, and I think it would be better if the M.O.H. would write out a scheme as to how to cleanse these houses. It is of course far better, as Mr. Lau has said, to allow the inhabitants to cleanse their own houses, under the supervision of an inspector.

The PRESIDENT—In the Punjab I see that an attempt is to be made to combat this disease by anti-plague inoculation on an enormous scale. Some thirty-five doctors have been engaged for this work, and it is proposed to inoculate some hundreds of thousands of the inhabitants. I also understand that in Formosa anti-plague inoculations were carried on this year with very successful results. It will be interesting to us to see the results of these experiments, but I doubt very much whether it would be practicable for us to enforce anything of this kind amongst the Chinese. I doubt, too, whether a general cleansing such as that carried on last year is really efficacious, and my reason for that statement is that I am informed that many of the houses were just as dirty three weeks after being cleansed as they were before. It appears to me that what is wanted is that the District Inspectors on their rounds should pay more attention to the state of cleanliness of the houses in their districts. If the Medical Officer of Health considers that their time is fully taken up in discovering and dealing with infringements of the Public Health Ordinance I suggest that the Board recommend that some temporary inspectors be engaged whose duty it would be to visit the houses and ascertain the state of cleanliness or otherwise of these houses. If they are dirty, the Chinese should be given, say, a couple of weeks to undertake the work of cleaning them; then let the houses be revisited at the end of the fortnight, and if they are still dirty let the Board step in and undertake the work. A general cleansing, such as that occurred last winter and which lasted from November to April, would be very irksome to the Chinese, especially if this is to be repeated every year; what we require is to strain at maintaining the town constantly in a sanitary condition. As members are aware, the staff of the Sanitary Department has been increased since last winter by the addition of five senior sanitary inspectors, and I may say that, from my own observation and from information given to me by the Medical Officer of Health, the town is much cleaner than it has been for many years. It seems to me to be necessary in the case of the Chinese to ascertain if they will cleanse the houses themselves, and if not it will then be necessary for us to undertake the work, as we did last year, with our own staff.

The motion was then put to the meeting and negatively, Mr. Badeley, Mr. Lau Chu Pak, and Mr. Fung Wa Chun voting against it. The President did not vote.

ANALYSES OF BEER AND SPIRITS.

Mr. F. Browne, the Government Analyst, reported that during the quarter ended 30th September he had analysed two samples of beer and five of brandy, all of which were found to be genuine.

THE DEATH-RATE

The mortality statistics for the week ended 4th October showed a death-rate of 19.3 per 1,000 of the population per annum as against

18.6 in the previous week and 21.9 in the corresponding week of the previous year.

SALT-FISH STALLS IN THE WESTERN MARKET.

The approval of H. E. the Governor of the Board's recommendation to do away with the salt-fish stalls in the Western Market to make room for stalls for the sale of fresh goods was reported.

S. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE.

An application was submitted for permission to erect a water-closet in S. Joseph's College.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by Mr. FUNG WA CHUN, the application was refused.

LIMEWASHING.

The limewashing returns for the fortnight ended 11th October showed that 668 houses in the Central District had been cleansed.

PLAGUE AT YOKOHAMA.

Copy of a telegram from H.B.M.'s Minister at Tokyo, of date 10th inst., to H.E. the Governor of Hongkong, was submitted, stating that plague had appeared at Yokohama and that there had been four cases up to that date.

NEW CATTLE-SHEDS.

Plans were submitted from the Director of Public Works for the erection of a large cattle-shed at Kennedytown.

On the motion of Hon. Dr. CLARK they were approved, conditional on the construction of a gateway to connect the new shed with those already existing.

This was all the public business.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At the monthly meeting of the Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce held in the Chamber Room, City Hall, on Wednesday, 8th October, 1902, at 3.30 p.m. Present:—Hon. C. S. Sharp (Chairman), Mr. W. Poate (Vice-Chairman), Hon. C. W. Dickson, Messrs. A. Haupt, E. A. Hewett, N. A. Siebs, J. R. M. Smith, H. E. Tomkins, R. C. Wilcox, and A. R. Lowe (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the monthly meeting of the 16th ultimo were read and confirmed.

STOWAWAYS.

Read letter dated 24th ult. to Hon. Colonial Secretary enclosing copy of Shipmasters' letter to the Chamber dated 16th ult. The reply of the Colonial Secretary dated 27th ult. was also read.

The CHAIRMAN said the correspondence had already been published in the Press and it would seem that the Government were not prepared to take part in any enquiry, but had offered to take into consideration the information gathered by the Committee.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN suggested that all the shipping firms be asked to obtain the views of their Captains on this subject and transmit them to the Committee, who could then formulate a report. After some discussion this course was agreed to.

CHINESE STOWAWAYS TO THE PHILIPPINES.

Read letter from Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., General Managers, Indo-China S. N. Co., Ltd., dated 20th ult., drawing attention to the s.s. *Loongsang* stowaway case and asking the Chamber to make representations to the Government with a view to the amendment of the local ordinance relating to stowaways and their aiders and abettors.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that this question should be re-opened with the Government in the hope that they might now be disposed to reconsider their decision with the later facts before them, and make the penalty under the present Ordinance a really deterrent one. It was unanimously decided to adopt the Chairman's suggestion.

ALLEGED DIFFERENTIAL DUTIES ON PAPER MANUFACTURED IN HONGKONG AND IMPORTED INTO SHANGHAI.

The Tai Ming Paper Manufacturing Co.'s letter of 6th instant was read stating that their paper imports into Shanghai now only paid duty on basis of 5 per cent. on the invoice cost, and expressing their thanks to the Chamber for the redress obtained.

COLONY FREE FROM PLAGUE.

A letter was read from the Colonial Secretary, dated 18th ult., stating that the Colony having been free from plague for a period of ten days

is therefore declared a clean port, and that clean bills of health are now issued.

In the course of discussion it was stated that in spite of the fact that Indo-China, Straits Settlements and the Netherland Indies no longer quarantine arrivals from Hongkong, Shanghai still continued to do so, and the hope was expressed that news would shortly be received from Shanghai to the effect that the medical inspection of vessels arriving from this port had ceased.

MERCHANT SHIPPING AMENDMENT ORDINANCE.

With reference to the letter of the Chamber to the Government, dated 19th November, 1901, enclosing a petition from the representatives of the shipping companies in the Colony protesting that owners of steamers should not be made responsible for expenses incurred through removal and treatment ashore of passengers who may be taken ill on board, a letter was read dated 29th ult. from the Colonial Secretary stating that the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies had received the memorial from the shipping firms and agencies in question but that he saw no reason for complying with the request of the signatories.

After some discussion, it was decided to reply to the Government that the committee regretted the decision arrived at by the Secretary of State for the Colonies and that representations would be made to the leading Chambers of Commerce in Great Britain and their assistance asked to bring the outrageous provisions of the Ordinance before the Home Government with a view to their repeal.

ADDITIONAL FACILITIES FOR TRAFFIC ON THE WEST RIVER.

Read letter from the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co., Ltd., Indo-China S.N. Co., Ltd., and China Navigation Co., Ltd., dated 19th ult., stating that the Cantonese authorities were willing and anxious that the s.s. *Sainan* and *Nanning* should call regularly at all towns and villages in the Delta and on the West River between Canton and Wuchow to land and receive passengers who might then travel in safety, which was not now the case on account of the prevalence of piracy, and asking the Chamber to move the Chinese Government, through H.M. Minister at Peking, to grant the necessary permission.

A telegram was despatched to Sir Ernest Satow on the 24th instant to meet the above request.

The CHAIRMAN said that they could only hope the concessions asked for would be granted, but so far, he understood, nothing definite had been arrived at, although negotiations were still in progress at Canton.

THE CHAMBER'S REPRESENTATIVE ON THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

In consequence of the receipt of a letter from H. E. the Governor informing the Chamber that Mr. Whitehead's term of office, temporarily filled by Mr. R. Shewan, expired on 24th ult., and asking the Chamber to nominate a candidate to fill the vacancy a special general meeting of the members was summoned for 3rd instant at which Mr. Shewan was re-elected *nem. con.*

The CHAIRMAN said that Mr. Shewan was unfortunately unable to be present at the meeting to-day, but they nevertheless tendered him their congratulations on his re-nomination.

PROPOSED LICENSING OF PILOTS.

Read letter to the Colonial Secretary dated 29th ultimo, covering the further report of the Sub-Committee.

The SECRETARY reported that so far no reply had been received.

NEW PUBLIC HEALTH AND BUILDINGS BILL.

It was agreed to postpone the discussion of the new Bill until it was known in what shape the Government intended to bring the measure forward again.

NEW BRITISH COMMERCIAL TREATY—THE EFFECTIVE 5 PER CENT. SPECIFIC TARIFF.

It was also decided to await receipt of the official copies of the above before discussing their conditions.

This concluded the proceedings.

The celebrated sacred red bridge at Nikko, Japan, which, with all the other bridges over the river there, was carried away in the typhoon on the 28th ult., was built in 1638 and last repaired in 1892. It was 84 feet long and 18 feet wide.

THE HONGKONG REGIMENT.

FAREWELL INSPECTION BY THE GOVERNOR.

On Friday afternoon, 10th inst., amid the pleasantest of surroundings and favoured by what was certainly King's weather, His Excellency the Governor, Sir Henry Blake, K.C.M.G., made his farewell inspection of the Hongkong Regiment.

The Football ground where this interesting and indeed historical parade took place, was crowded with spectators, which included Lady Blake and Miss Blake, Admiral Grenfell, and a large concourse of Naval and Military officers together with most of the principal residents in the Colony.

The Regiment, which was under the command of Major Berger, with Captain P. G. Anderson, Captain G. D. Campbell, Lieut. and Adjutant H. S. Moberly, Lieut. E. C. Wallace, and Lieut. W. H. Bingham, was drawn up in line of 8 companies of a total strength of 679 officers and men practically from one side of the ground to the other, and presented a spectacle which those who saw it will not soon forget.

H.E. attended by Col. Brown, R.E., commanding the Troops, Major Denny, D.A.A.G., and Capt. Arbuthnot, M.V.O., Scots Guards, A.D.C., arrived about 4.30 p.m., and was received by a general salute. After having ridden round the line H.E. returned to the saluting base and the ceremony of trooping the colour was commenced and carried out from start to finish in faultless style.

The enormous physique and extraordinary steadiness and smartness of the men, their perfect marching both in slow and quick time, the final advance in review order, the rapidity with which the three sides of a square were formed at the conclusion of the ceremony, showed that the training which all ranks had received was of no ordinary kind, and moreover served only to increase among onlookers the general feeling of sincere regret that so magnificent a Regiment should be disbanded.

At the conclusion of the parade,

HIS EXCELLENCY said—Major Berger, officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the Hongkong Regiment, I regret that the time has come when I have inspected you for the last time and when I have to say good-bye to this magnificent Regiment so soon to be disbanded. During the 10½ years of its existence the Hongkong Regiment has attained a high standard of efficiency that reflects the greatest credit upon the officers of the Indian Staff Corps who have been responsible for its training and discipline. In the operation that became necessary on account of the attack by the Chinese at the taking over of the New Territory the conduct of the Regiment left nothing to be desired, and in the expedition to Tientsin and Peking last year the Regiment particularly distinguished itself. In that expedition the Regiment lost in action 11 killed and 31 wounded, while 8 men died of disease and 2 by accidents. A and B Companies under Captain Rowcroft and Lieut. Wallace were present during the siege of Tientsin and the capture of the native city, the portion of the field of operations where far the most serious fighting of the expedition took place. Why no clasp was given for those engagements is an inscrutable mystery to all those outside the War Office and Admiralty who know the facts connected with the expedition, but the fighting in Tientsin proved the quality of the Hongkong Regiment. Captain Rowcroft was mentioned in despatches and received the Distinguished Service Order, while my A.D.C. Subadar Major Sirdar Khan was similarly mentioned and received the honour of the Companionship of the Order of the Indian Empire for special gallantry when, in command of a picket at the railway terminus and entirely unsupported, he repulsed a determined night attack of the Chinese forces and cleared the railway station at the point of the bayonet. You, Major Berger, and Subadar Jan Muhammed were mentioned in despatches for energetic and successful conduct in the suppression of brigandage while employed on the line of communications, and Subadar Jan Muhammed has also been decorated with the Order of British India. I find also that Private Sher Khan was awarded the Royal Humane Societies' Medal for a plucky attempt to save the life of a comrade in the

Peiho river. This record in a short period of active service shows the fine quality of the Regiment and is the result of that drill and discipline to which testimony has been borne by Major-General Sir William Gascoigne under whose command you have served in this garrison for the last four years; by General Sir Alfred Gaselee who commanded the China expedition and by the Commandant of the School of Musketry at Hythe, who reported as follows with reference to the Coronation detachment of the Hongkong Regiment, "that their work was so admirable in all respects that it provided an object lesson for some of our instructors of the extraordinary skill that proper recruit training can develop." No higher praise could be given of your work as soldiers, and it must gratify to Major-General Sir Edmond Barrow who raised the Regiment, Colonel Faithfull, to Colonel Retallich, and to you, Major Berger who now commands it, that this Regiment that has been moulded under your hands, than which no regiment has ever presented a more splendid appearance on parade has done such credit to your sustained efforts during your several commands. The exigencies of the service require that you shall cease to exist as a unit on the 30th November, but I know that soldiers like you will not abandon the profession of arms but will continue to serve your King and Emperor in other Regiments with the same fidelity that you have shown in the Hongkong Regiment. You will leave your Colours in the Cathedral here, where in years to come they will remind the people of Hongkong that the Colony once possessed a territorial Regiment second to none in His Majesty's Indian army. I am glad to have the opportunity of speaking thus to you, and in bidding you farewell I wish you all, officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, every success in the future. (Applause.)

Major BERGER said—Your Excellency,—The Regiment which after a short existence of 10½ years has paraded for the last time before you to-day, and concerning which you have made so very flattering a speech, is interesting not only to the Colony by reason of its name but also to all those who take an interest in principles which affect the well-being of the Army. Our first Commandant, Major, now Major-General Sir Edmund Barrow, K.C.B., was a soldier of great experience, advanced ideas, and with great influence at Headquarters, and he, when raising this Regiment for service under the War Office, received permission to introduce a system which was an entire departure from that of the Indian Army. Without going into details of the system it will interest you to know that owing to its success in the Hongkong Regiment the Government of India in 1900 directed its adoption by the Infantry Regiments of the Indian Army. The uniform of the Regiment is also unique and that too will be worn in future by Indian Regiments. Before the arrival in this Colony of the Regiments of the Indian Army proper we posed but as a sample of the 150,000 troops which India has always ready for Imperial service, and it is very gratifying to us to be told that our efforts have been more creditable than otherwise. It has been said that good soldiers should remain equally unmoved by praise or by blame, but it would be impossible for any body of men to listen to what Your Excellency has been pleased to say—impossible for them to read the excellent reports which Generals Sir Alfred Gaselee and Sir William Gascoigne and other officers in high position have written—without feeling very proud indeed. The result which might so easily have been different is due to a good system and also to the very liberal treatment we have received from the War Office—treatment which as regards the men under their command officers of the Indian Staff Corps have never had the good fortune to receive before. We naturally deplore the disbandment of the Regiment, but we recognise its necessity and can now only try to get together a regiment of the same kind again. On behalf of the Officers, N.C.O.'s and men, past and present, of the Hongkong Regiment I thank your Excellency for the honour you have done the Regiment by holding this farewell parade, and I wish here also to express to the residents of the Colony present our great appreciation of their attendance this afternoon. We of the Hongkong Regiment have spent very happy

years in this beautiful Colony, and we hope that your Excellency and residents will remember the Hongkong Regiment as long and as well as the Hongkong Regiment will always remember you. (Applause.)

Three cheers were then given for T. M. the King and Queen, followed by three for H.E. the Governor and the Residents of Hongkong, and three more for H.E. Major-General Sir William Gascoigne, after which the Regiment returned to quarters.

THE REGIMENTAL COLOURS.

The ceremony of delivering the colours of the Hongkong Regiment into the charge of the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Hongkong, took place on the 11th inst. A much larger congregation than usual assembled in the Cathedral, amongst whom were many Army and Navy officers, H.E. the Governor and Lady Blake, Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., Colonel L. F. Brown, R.E. (Senior Officer Commanding the Garrison), and Colonel Denny, D.A.A.G. A few minutes before 11, two companies of the Regiment with fixed bayonets, guarding the colours, and headed by the bands, marched up. At their head were Major Berger, the commander, and all the English officers and the native officers. The detachment formed up facing the west-door, where at the time fixed for the commencement of the service they were met by the chaplain and choir. A Royal salute was given, and then the choir, chaplain and all the officers, with the colours, marched in procession up the central aisle, the choir and congregation singing "Onward Christian Soldiers" to Sullivan's stirring tune. The guard, in the meantime, departed for their barracks. The officers, English and native, were seated in the chancel, and the spectacle—if a description be permissible—was certainly picturesque and impressive. The English officers sat in the front row of chancel seats. There were about fourteen native officers, including the one especially decorated recently for bravery, and the two who went home with the Coronation contingent, and they appeared to take much interest in the service, though being characteristically impassive, it was not possible to judge to what extent. They looked splendid fellows in their striking uniforms, and adjoining them was the surplised choir. In the background was the altar with its flowers and red hangings, and above it the beautiful east window, through the stained glass of which streamed rays of subdued sunlight. The native officers certainly seemed to realise the sacred character of the service, the object of their presence, and the sincere feelings of the congregation towards them. This was emphasised by the fact that men of the regiment who were off duty crowded the west-door and the west-gallery, to which they were admitted, and gazed wonderingly on the service below.

The service was the ordinary one for the day. The musical portion of it was most carefully rendered by the large choir—now up to its full strength again. The responses were *Ferial*: the *Te Deum* was Baker in F. The Rev. F. T. Johnson, M.A., the chaplain, preached at some length, and made special reference to the event, and after the offertory, Lieut. Moberley advanced with the King's Colour and Sabadar-Major Khan, C.I.E., with the rich yellow regimental ensign, and handed them to the Chaplain at the altar rails, who said:—

On behalf of the Church Body of this Cathedral Church of St. John the Evangelist I receive these colours of the Hongkong Regiment to be preserved in this Church as a memorial of that Regiment for ever.—In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Special prayers were then said of which the first two were the following:—

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose grace Thy servants are enabled to fight the good fight and ever prove victorious: we humbly beseech Thee to inspire the soldiers of our King, especially those of this Regiment whose colours we now humbly present before Thee, that they may yield their hearts to Thine obedience and exercise their wills on Thy behalf. Help them to think wisely, to speak rightly, to resolve bravely, to act kindly, and to live purely. Bless them in body and soul and

make them a blessing to others. Wherever they may be, may they ever seek the extension of Thy Kingdom. Let the assurance of Thy presence support them in life and comfort them in death. O Lord, our God, accept our prayer for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Blessed be Thy name, O Lord God, for that it hath pleased Thee to have Thy habitation among the sons of men and to dwell in the midst of the assembly of Thy saints upon earth. Accept we beseech Thee these our services this day and grant that these colours, now set apart in this Church to Thy glory, may evermore be a sign unto us of lofty courage, of devotion to duty, of loyalty to country and to King and that Thy Holy Name may be worshipped in truth and purity to all generations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The choir then sang "Lead Kindly Light," after which the Chaplain pronounced the Benediction and the service closed.

The colours will be hung on each side of the chancel.

SENHOR CASTELLO BRANCO.

As we have already announced, H.E. Senhor Castello Branco, Portuguese Envoy Extraordinary to Peking, has telegraphed to Macao, stating that he has signed a treaty on behalf of Portugal by which that country obtains commercial advantages from China: what these advantages may be, it is impossible yet to ascertain, but it is of course agreed between the Powers and China that whatever commercial privilege is granted to one Power shall also be extended to the others. Sr. Castello Branco has wired to Sr. A. J. Basto, President of the Municipal Council of Macao, congratulating the inhabitants of that city on the treaty. A meeting of the Council will be convoked to issue an invitation to the Portuguese Envoy to visit Macao on his way home *via* Hongkong to Lisbon, which he expects to reach before the meeting of Parliament next January.

Sr. Castello Branco has great political influence in Portugal, has won some of the highest decorations and held most important posts, including the Civil Governorship of Lisbon and the Directorate of Public Instruction. He is a nephew of the celebrated Portuguese novelist, Camillo Castello Branco, and began life as an army surgeon, but soon afterwards adopted a parliamentary career.

ENQUIRIES INTO COLLAPSES OF HOUSES.

KOWLOON CITY ROAD.

The official enquiry into the fatal collapse of houses Nos. 30 and 32, Kowloon City Road was resumed at the Magistracy on the 14th inst. before His Worship Mr. F. A. Hazeland and a common jury. Mr. H. L. Dennys, Acting Crown Solicitor, appeared for the Crown; Mr. H. W. Looker, solicitor, for the architects, Messrs Leigh & Orange; and Mr. E. J. Grist, solicitor, for the contractor, the Loong Cheong firm.

Tam A Ling, contractor, one of the members of the Loong Cheong firm, went into the box and gave further evidence. He said, in examination by Mr. Dennys, that besides this contract for 50 houses he had other contracts in hand, including sundry work. The 50-houses contract was in a separate account; the others were not. With reference to the materials used in the construction of these 50 houses, the lime was purchased from a number of firms in Samsui and Macao and also in various small quantities for cash. Witness here produced a book showing the amounts purchased and the prices paid, except in the case of the smaller amounts bought for cash. These latter he could tell by reference to his cash-book. In his estimate for these 50 houses, he estimated the cost of lime for 30 of them at \$2,500; he had not written down the estimate for the remaining 20, but it would come up to about the same price, as these houses were higher and deeper. That made a total of about \$5,000. This was the cost of the lime used for bending the brickwork and in the plaster. All this lime should have been given to Tse A Po. The construction of all the 50 houses was completed in the fifth or sixth moon of this year, but he could not say whether he had made a profit or a loss on the lime. He knew the

price of the lime at the time he made the estimate, but not afterwards. He paid about \$20 per house for red earth to mix with the lime for making mortar. That represented simply the labour of digging the red earth and carrying it to the site. Asked whether the mortar used in all the houses was exactly the same, witness replied that he gave directions to the bricklayers to work according to specification. The amount of lime in a specimen of mortar taken from No. 2 should be the same as in a specimen taken from No. 30. The specification provided for a foreman being constantly on the works. Ng Leung, his partner in the contracting firm, was the foreman on the works under the specification; there was no other foreman. With reference to the northernmost wall on Lot 1,108, witness first noticed signs of weakening in the first moon of this year. That was between the level of the first floor and the second floor. The wall was taken down and rebuilt, the re-erection being completed about the third or fourth moon. The wall was in good condition then. Now there were in it one big crack and two small cracks. The southernmost wall of house No. 2 on K. I. L. 1,107 showed cracks after the August typhoon, and had been taken down and rebuilt. This was also the case with the west wall of Lot 1,108, two of the kitchen walls being damaged by the same typhoon on 1st August. The damage was made good, and the wall was now in good condition, developing no outward tendency. Some of the plaster might have fallen out, though. No cross tie-rods had been put in between the party walls of houses Nos. 36 and 38, so far as witness knew. He was unable to say, however, whether or not cross tie-rods had been placed between the party walls of any other houses on the lot. Beyond some plaster having fallen out, there was nothing wrong with the west or back wall of Lot 1,107, and it had no outward tendency. The brickwork of neither of the back walls of the blocks on the two lots was softened by rain; they might have got wet in the typhoon, but the mortar, witness thought, was not squeezed out. He had built the No. 1 godown of the Hongkong and Whampoa Wharf & Godown Co., and the front wall of that had cracked and been shored up; the wall facing the Praya was also cracked, and some of the plaster had fallen out. Four of 22 Chinese houses witness built for the Godown Company had slight cracks in their walls; iron rods had been put in, on the instructions of the architects. It was not the case that the gable wall of any of these 22 houses was cracked. Regarding the collapse, witness was of opinion that the wall of No. 30 fell first and hit No. 32, which collapsed outwards on to No. 30. The typhoon brought down the wall of No. 30, but how could witness explain why the wall should fall because of the typhoon? no one could explain the wind, he said. It was equally inexplicable why the typhoon should blow down one house and not another. The material used in the building of the fifty houses was good, and witness had no complaint as to the way in which the various sub-contractors carried out their work. Since he had been in Court the other day, he had formed no idea as to whether he made a profit or lost on the contract for the houses; the accounts had not been made up. Deducting the insurance, there was still due witness from the Land Investment Co. for the building of the houses a sum of \$19,000. That would amount altogether to not more than \$145,000, the contract price. By the price of materials going down, witness had made a profit of \$870; further than that, he could not say whether he had lost or profited. During the building of the houses he visited them two or three times a week, and saw the material actually used in their construction. Witness's partner was on the job every day and all day, broadly speaking. Regarding Andersen, the overseer, witness generally saw him when he visited the houses, which were also visited by Mr. Leigh, one, two, or three times a week. All these people could see the material that was being used. Witness sometimes saw Mr. Crisp, the inspector of buildings, at the job, and the latter told him to use good mortar and to bond the bricks properly.

By a jurymen—The contract was based on an estimate for high-class bricks, and high-class bricks were purchased. There was a trade

discount of one candareen to a dollar in the case of the sub-contractors, and in some cash transactions a discount of one candareen per tael was made. That represented the only profit witness expected to make out of the contract.

By Mr. Wilkinson—Witness had always employed sub-contractors, and every other contractor in Hongkong did the same. He had previously done a good deal of work for Mr. Leigh, who was aware that sub-contractors were employed then. No architect had ever raised objections to the employment of sub-contractors by witness.

By the Court—In every contract he had had since he started business in the Colony eight or nine years ago, there had been sub-letting.

By Mr. Denny—The contract price of \$145,000 for the fifty houses included \$60 per month each for witness and his partner, over a period extending to fifteen to sixteen months. The item amounted to \$500 in respect of the houses on Lot 1,107, to \$500 for those on Lot 1,108, and to \$1,000 for the houses on Lot 1,118. These three items, representing a total of \$2,000, included also the wages of sweeping coolies, a cook, and a watchman; the amount, witness explained, was for what was called "Sheds expenses," and was not reckoned as profit.

The enquiry was adjourned.

THE VOLUNTEER CAMP.

Monday.

Fine weather favoured the opening of the annual camp of instruction of the Hongkong Volunteer corps at Stonecutters' Island on the 10th inst. We have already explained that the ordinary arrangements in connection with the camp differ in no material way from those of last year, but in the matter of training one important departure is to be noted, namely, that of the drilling of the members of the corps as Garrison artillerymen. The change in the constitution of the Volunteers is a judicious one, of that there can be no doubt, and this fact has been recognised by those mainly concerned, the Volunteers themselves, who are entering upon their new instruction courses with a zeal that promises well for their efficiency.

Not many were present in camp on Friday night; there seldom is on the first day, which is regarded rather in the light of an experimental one than as partaking of the serious business of the days that are to follow. A very pleasant evening, however, was spent by those who were in camp, although there was no attempt at any organised entertainment—that comes along in due course, when the camp is in full swing. Corporal D—s, as usual, was the leading spirit in what fun took place; a camp that lacked the presence of this versatile raconteur of bonmots would be a desolate affair indeed. He has a complaint this year, though: the sergeants' mess is to be held sacred to the use of the gentlemen of the three stripes only, not even such an important personage as a corporal being admitted. Under these circumstances, Corporal D—s, who was detected in an attempt to explore the mess in question and was ingloriously bundled out, does not quite see why a sergeant should be allowed to partake of refreshment at the canteen allotted to the corporals, lance-corporals and men of the Corps, unless he be willing to "pay for his footing." This latter consideration is recommended to the notice of sergeants.

It is unfortunate—and annoying—that a colony of ants should have determined to hold a camp at the same time and in the same place as that of the Volunteers. The little models of misplaced industry dispute the possession of many tents, and the vigour they display in the prosecution of their hostile tactics is responsible for a surprising amount of "language."

Many visitors came over on Saturday night, when an enjoyable "sing-song" was given. There was also a large influx of Volunteers. Church parade was held yesterday morning.

Tuesday.

Sunday was a dull day. Comparatively few Volunteers were in camp, and those who were found it hard to kill time after the morning's work was finished. Sleep was practically out of the question, for a host of flies had joined forces with the ants and made the wooing of Morpheus a vain thing.

Rev. C. H. Hickling, minister of the Union Church, came over in the morning and officiated at church parade, which showed a strong muster. After breakfast lectures on matters relevant to the playing of the grim game of war were given by two of the sergeant instructors attached to the Corps, Major Pritchard, the Commandant, also participating. On Saturday afternoon Major W. Baker Brown explained the operation and use of the search-light, etc., in its comparative relationship to Garrison artillery and a hostile vessel entering a harbour. All of these lectures were interesting because instructive, and were listened to attentively by the Volunteers.

On Sunday at noon Major Pritchard made an inspection of the tents, which had previously been carefully set in order. This over, the rest of the day was left for its occupation to the inclinations of the Volunteers, who were free from duty, excepting, of course, the guards. Some had a shoot over the range, and others smartened themselves up in anticipation of the visits of friends to see them in their war-paint. The opportunity, too, was a fine one for those who were home at the Coronation, and they made some of their less fortunate fellows envious by recitals of their experiences and adventures on the trip to the tight little island over the seas. In the afternoon, when the visitors put in an appearance, kodaks were produced, and amateur Tommy Atkinses posed in appropriate attitudes in front of their little canvas houses for the snap-shots that should afterwards be held as interesting souvenirs of another camp in the history of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps.

On Sunday evening the band of the regiment obliged with a few selections, interspersed with contributions to the musical programme by Volunteers and a trio from the regular army, who proved a good combination of instrumentalists. There is talk of an organised concert for to-morrow night, and a good indication of its eventuating is to be found in the small platform already erected for the accommodation of the entertainers.

Yesterday morning and again in the afternoon the mysteries of big-gun drill were again delved into. Everything is being done in this direction to bring the newly-embodied Garrison artillerymen "up to scratch," and for useful instruction the present camp should close with a high record indeed.

Wednesday.

The camp has long since settled down to a steady pursuit of routine duties, and to our earlier accounts of these practically nothing remains to be added. One day is just like another—*revue* at 5 a.m., parade an hour later, a march down to the pier, and a launch trip to one of the three batteries on Stonecutters, where tunics are doffed and quick-firers and six and ten-inch breech-loaders handled by detachments told off for each. The instructors are painstaking men, and already their tutoring is marked by a certain amount of proficiency on the part of the Volunteer soldiers. These are displaying much enthusiasm for their new duties, for, besides the personal satisfaction afforded by the knowledge that one can get through one's own part creditably, there is looming ahead the probability of a competition, and this in itself provides a strong centive for the expenditure of one's best efforts. When the competition does take place, woe betide the laggard in a gun's crew! He receives consideration from no one of his comrades, and even his best friend turns from him. Speech is forbidden, but the looks that occasionally are cast in the direction of the unhappy mortal are sufficient in the depths of their reproach to induce thoughts of suicide and a longing for a friendly knock from one of the great shells screaming out to the target in the water. With all this in his mind, then little wonder that the embryo soldier buckles to with a resolve to be as good as the next man anyway, and better if possible.

Friday.

There was unusual bustle in the camp on the 15th inst., and for the nonce things military were set aside and merry-making indulged in. It was guest night, and for the entertainment of the visitors a concert was to be given. The Governor, too, was coming.

besides other notabilities of the Colony, and in honour of the occasion two long rows of Japanese lanterns, nodding and swinging in the breeze, illuminated the way from the pier to the officers' mess, where the distinguished visitors were to be fêted. Flags fluttered here and there, a yellow one over the sergeants' mess being prominent amongst the display. The reason for its selection was not quite apparent to the ordinary mind, and the uncharitable amongst the others of the rank and file put it down as a quite unnecessary precaution to ensure the mess in question against invasion by those Volunteers who have not yet attained to the dignity of a trio of stripes.

On landing, H.E. the Governor was received by a guard of honour of fifty men, who escorted him and his party to the mess of the officers of the Corps. Amongst the guests, who included a few prominent civilians, were the Hon. F. H. May, Colonel Brown, R.E., Colonel Johnson, R.A., Rear-Admiral Grenfell, Commodore Robinson, and Mr. F. J. Badeley.

After dinner, Commandant Pritchard, H.K. V.C., conducted His Excellency and the others to the place where a platform, decorated with flowers and bunting, had been erected for the purposes of the concert. The band of the Corps, which played selections during dinner, opened with the National Anthem, and afterwards the various items of a capital programme were gone through. Amongst those who contributed were Lts. Lammert and Northcote and Gunners Hays, Hay, Whittick, Stevenson, and Hainsworth; Gunner Sheffield accompanied on the piano, and a member of the Regular army made a good appearance in a cornet solo.

His Excellency did not stay very long, but the concert continued for some little time after his departure, an extension of time in the matter of retiring to their tents being granted the Volunteers. Altogether an exceedingly enjoyable evening was spent, and if helmets fitted a little tight in the morning, what mattered?

THE "YOSHINO MARU" DISASTER.

As announced in our Shanghai correspondent's telegram on the 13th inst., the Hongkong-owned steamer *Yoshino Maru* has been burned while on a voyage from Shanghai to Kobe. From further messages received by the agents here, it appears that the disaster happened while the vessel was near Sato-misaki, the southernmost promontory on the island of Kinshiu, Japan, at the end of the Van Diemen Strait. The *Yoshino Maru*, presumably, was passing through the Strait on her way to Kobe when she caught fire. The first telegraphic communication received in Hongkong concerning the disaster came from Yokohama and was to the effect that it had been reported from Moji that the *Yoshino Maru* had apparently been abandoned by the crew at the point indicated, and it was supposed that the crew had been picked up by a steamer and taken to Nagasaki. Another telegram received on Sunday stated definitely that the *Yoshino Maru* had been burned at sea and that the transport *Brooke* had picked up the crew off Sato-misaki and landed them at Nagasaki.

It is not known here what cargo the steamer was carrying. The general opinion among shippers is that it was in all probability cotton, and if such is the case there can be little doubt that the ship is a total loss. Her registered owner is Mr. G. H. Medhurst, of Messrs. Dodwell & Co., Ltd., Hongkong. She is an iron screw steamer of 2,049 tons register and was built in 1883 by Messrs. Campbell, Macintosh & Bowshead, Newcastle-on-Tyne; dimensions—277 ft. long, 37.6 broad and 24.2 deep. The *Yoshino Maru* was in Hongkong some months ago.

It is believed that there are no local men among the European crew.

The King has been pleased to grant to Mr. John Penniall, Chief Instructor of the Nanking Naval College, His Majesty's Royal licence and authority that he may accept and wear the Insignia of the Second Class, Third Division, of the Imperial Order of the Double Dragon, conferred upon him by his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of China, in recognition of valuable service rendered to his Imperial Majesty.

LAUNCH AT KOWLOON DOCK.

A new and important acquisition to the tug service of the Kowloon & Whampoa Dock Company was made on the 16th inst. shortly after eight o'clock by the launching of the twin-screw steel tow-boat *Robert Cooke*, which is named after the late respected manager of the establishment. The function was a successful one, and amongst those present to witness its consummation were:—Hon. R. Shewan, Messrs. A. Haupt, J. H. Lewis, E. Goetz (directors), W. B. Dixon (chief manager), W. Wilson (manager, Kowloon Dock), Mrs. Goetz, Mrs. and Miss Dixon, Mr. and Mrs. Goddard, Mr. and Mrs. Schellhass, Mr. and Mrs. Dollar, Mr. and Mrs. Jessen, Mr. and Mrs. J. Macdonald, Mr. and Mrs. Carmichael, Paymaster Robnett, U.S.N., Messrs. N. Mumford, G. Stewart, R. Fuhrmann, W. Goetz, W. S. Bailey, A. Ritchie, Ph. Moller, A. Bane, F. F. Bovet, E. Arndt, C. A. H. Westerburger, R. Laurentz, and T. H. Reid. Mrs. Goetz performed the ceremony of launching the new tug, whose career, if it be judged by the auspicious circumstances attending its commencement, must be a successful one.

The *Robert Cooke* is large, much broader and deeper than the Dock Company's present tug *Fame*, and will have about double the power. She is a powerful sea-going boat, capable of towing ships to neighbouring ports, and will be able to handle with ease the largest vessels likely to enter this harbour. We have been supplied with the following particulars regarding her dimensions, speed, engines, and boilers:—Dimensions—Length between perpendiculars, 150ft., breadth, moulded, 27ft., depth, moulded, 14ft. 6in.; draft, mean, 10ft. 9in.; speed, 12 knots per hour. Engines—Inverted, vertical, triple expansion, twin screw, and surface condensing. Diameter of cylinders, 13in., 22in., and 35in.; stroke, 30in.; indicated horse power about 1,100. Boilers (two)—Cylindrical, return-tubular, of mild steel; internal diameter, 13ft. 3in.; length, 10ft. Working pressure, 180lbs. per square inch. Three Fox's corrugated furnaces to each boiler; external diameter of each, 3ft. 3½in.

BOAT CLUB SMOKING CONCERT.

The smoking concert given by the Hongkong Boat Club on the 11th inst. was a most enjoyable entertainment and was much appreciated by the large company present. The concert was given in S. Andrew's Hall, and through the courtesy of Colonel Johnson, C.M., and officers of the Royal Garrison Artillery, the Indian pipers and drums attended and made the vicinity re-echo with the skirl of the pipes before the programme opened and later during the interval. A very good and comprehensive programme had been arranged, consisting of tenor and baritone solos, comic songs and instrumental music. The singers were Mr. E. Mirow and Mr. Charles Lammert, tenors; and Mr. W. J. Terrill and Mr. F. Whittick, baritones. They were all in excellent voice, and were all recalled. The comic singers, Messrs. Burgess and Pyke, who appeared in character, acquitted themselves very well, and were also compelled by the audience to oblige again. The violin solos by Mr. Francis C. Barlow, were two of the most pleasing numbers on the programme, and showed that as a violinist he will occupy a front place in the amateur instrumental musical circle in the colony. His technique, which his solos in the second part of the programme specially revealed, was good and his interpretation was excellent. His pieces were all most artistically played, and we trust that now he has made his *debut* locally, we shall have the pleasure of hearing him often. The accompanist was Mr. A. G. Ward, to whom the soloists owed not a little of their success. Mr. Bovet accompanied Mr. Barlow. The piano supplied by Messrs. Lane, Crawford was of good tone. Mr. C. H. Gale, hon. secretary of the Club, presided. The following is the programme (which by the way, was a most artistic little production, showing the Club's flag, produced by the new Victoria Lithographic Works):—

PART I.	
Song	"Off to Philadelphia"
Mr. F. G. WHITTICK.	
Comic Song	"I'd like to go halves in that"
Mr. PYKE.	
Violin Solo	"Canzona"
Mr. F. C. BARLOW.	
Song	"All the World"
Mr. C. LAMMERT.	
Song	"Out on the Deep"
Mr. W. J. TERRILL.	
Comic Song	"One of the Old Brigade"
Mr. W. T. BURGESS.	
Song	"Wanderlied"
Mr. E. MIROW.	
PART II.	
Comic Song	"Bobbing up and down"
Mr. PYKE.	
Song	"A World of Love"
Mr. F. G. WHITTICK.	
Song	"Die Uhr"
Mr. E. MIROW.	
Comic Song	"Too Strong"
Mr. W. T. BURGESS.	
Violin Solo	"Salut d'Amour"
Mr. C. BARLOW.	
Song	"In Sweet September"
Mr. C. LAMMERT.	
Song	"Skippers of St. Ives"
Mr. W. J. TERRILL.	
"God Save the King."	

SMOKER AT THE SOLDIERS' CLUB.

On the 16th inst. in the Soldiers' Club the Corporals of the 2nd Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers entertained the Corporals of the 1st Derbyshire Regiment (Sherwood Foresters) at a smoking concert. There was a company of about 200 present, and the entertainment was a great success. The chair was filled by the popular Lance-Corporal T. Little, who carried out the duties admirably. A varied musical programme was gone through and no end of talent was forthcoming. The vocalists comprised Corpl. Waller, Corpl. Parry ("Love's Old Sweet Song"), Messrs. Burgess (comic), Palmer, Dockree ("Honey-suckle and the Bee"), Rogers ("It's Only Me"), and Anderson ("The Lost Chord") and "Mary of Argyle"). Corporal Esprey gave a good recitation, "The Hero of the Crimea"; and an excellent display of club-swinging was given by Corporals Pownall, Jones, Nicholas, and Briley. A phonographic performance gave pleasant variation to the programme, the instrument being under the direction of Mr. Hodgson. Lance-Corporal Bishop (song) and Corporal Prichard (step-dance) of the Derbyshires also gave able assistance. At the commencement of the concert, the Chairman proposed "The King" and afterwards "Our Guests"; in proposing the latter he welcomed the Foresters to Hongkong and hoped they would have a good time during their stay. Corporal Parry, upon whose shoulders fell the responsibility of the duties of secretary, proposed a vote of thanks to the officers of the two Regiments for granting them leave so as to enable them to meet all together. It should be added that orchestral music was supplied by members of the R. W. F. band under the conductorship of Corporal Eynott, while the accompaniments were rendered by Corporal Pownall. The proceedings were brought to a close with the customary votes of thanks and three cheers for the entertainers.

The following items are from the *Foochow Echo* of the 11th inst.:—Kuliang is now almost deserted by its summer visitors. The weather of late has been wonderfully fine and settled, but the want of rain is being severely felt all over the country and the second crop of paddy, which promised so well, is threatened in consequence; the farmers are looking anxiously for a change during the coming week.—The F. A. D. C. is at work again and we understand hopes to open its season with a performance of that always popular comedy *Dandy Dick*.—Unhappily dengue is still rife in our midst, it continues as an epidemic among the Chinese, and fresh cases are heard of almost daily among the foreign community. The form is not a severe one, but leaves considerable weakness.—The home of Rev. and Mrs. G. M. Gardner at Kuliang was the scene of a very pleasant wedding on September 22nd, at 7.30 p.m. Miss Minnie M. Borts was united in marriage with Mr. Edward L. Bliss, M.D.

STERLING SALARIES FOR HONGKONG OFFICIALS.

The following despatches were laid on the table at the meeting on the 9th inst. of the Legislative Council:—

SECRETARY OF STATE TO THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT.

Downing Street, 13th June, 1902.

SIR.—I have had under my consideration Sir Henry Blake's despatches of the 25th of October and the 11th of December last on the subject of the introduction of sterling salaries into the service of Hongkong.

2. In paragraph 3 of my despatch No. 426 of the 19th December last I informed Sir Henry Blake of my desire that the same principles should as far as possible be adopted in regard to the preparation of a sterling scheme for future appointments to the Hongkong Government service as had been already laid down in the case of the Straits Settlements. That despatch was crossed by Sir Henry Blake's despatch of the 11th December, in which he submitted a scheme of sterling salaries.

3. In despatches to Sir F. Swettenham, the numbers and dates of which are noted in the margin, and of which you have no doubt already received copies from him, I have explained my views as to how far and in what way officers who entered the service before last August should be affected by the introduction of the sterling scheme. The decision at which I have arrived may be summed up by saying that within six months from the publication of the sterling scheme officers will be allowed, without any discrimination on the part of Government, a free choice between coming under the scheme or continuing to receive, during the rest of their service in Hongkong, salaries fixed in dollars, as at present, with the addition of double exchange compensation. The choice will be final, except that an officer who elects to remain on a dollar salary, and who is hereafter transferred to the Straits Settlements or the Federated Malay States, may be allowed to come under the sterling scheme when so transferred. This answers the second paragraph of Sir H. Blake's despatch of 11th of December last.

4. Information on some other general questions not disposed of by previous correspondence is contained in the despatch to the Straits Settlements of which a copy is enclosed. I also forward a copy of another despatch on the subject of the rate at which sterling salaries should be converted into dollars for purposes of local payments. The final decision on this point will, of course, await Sir F. Swettenham's reply; in the meantime the arrangement proposed in paragraph 10 of Sir H. Blake's despatch of 11th December should remain in force.

5. As regards those recommendations of the Sterling Salaries Committee which affect the calculation of pensions, I am addressing you in a separate despatch.

The question of the contribution to the Widows and Orphans' Fund of officers whose salaries are fixed in sterling has been dealt with in my despatch No. 53 of the 24th February last.

6. Turning to the details and taking the highest appointment first, I agree to the salary of the Chief Justice being fixed at £2,000 a year. The salary of the Colonial Secretary should be fixed at £1,600 as in the Straits Settlements. The post of Attorney-General has been offered to and accepted by Sir H. Berkeley on £1,500 a year and I think the Puisne Judge should receive the same salary as the Senior Puisne Judge of the Straits, viz., £1,300 per annum.

7. I have followed the system adopted in the Eastern Colonies, by classifying separately the appointments for which cadets are eligible. This arrangement proved to be exceptionally difficult in the case of Hongkong, owing to the smallness of the cadet service and the fact that there are very few appointments in the lower classes of the Government service, as classified by Sir H. Blake, which are usually held by cadets. I have, in fact, been compelled to abandon any attempt to arrange the cadet posts into the same number of classes as in the Straits Settlements; and I have, instead, divided them into three classes, which are made to cover the same range of salaries as in the

Straits Settlements by providing in each class more increments and larger in amount.

8. I propose, in short, that the cadet service shall be classified as follows:—

Class I.

£800 rising to £1,000 by two triennial increments of £100.—Colonial Treasurer, Registrar-General, First Magistrate, Captain Superintendent of Police.

Class II.

£600 rising to £540 by three triennial increments of £40.—* Registrar of the Supreme Court, * Postmaster General, Inspector of Schools, * Second Magistrate, Assistant Colonial Secretary, Deputy Superintendent of Police.

Class III.

£420 rising to £540 by three triennial increments of £40.—Assistant Registrar-General, * Deputy Registrar and Accountant, * Deputy Registrar and Appraiser, * Secretary to the Sanitary Board, * Assistant Postmaster-General, * Assistant Superintendent of Police.

[The appointments marked thus * are not at present held by cadets, but should for the future be generally given to cadets if any are qualified for them.]

9. I am aware that the majority of the posts in Class III have not, hitherto, been considered to belong to the cadet service. They are, however, posts which cadets can fairly be called upon to occupy, and the duties of which they will in all probability be qualified to fulfil. (On this point Sir Henry Blake, whom I have had the advantage of consulting, is inclined to agree.

In future, therefore, a vacancy in one of these posts should preferably be filled by the selection of a cadet, if a cadet can be found who is qualified to hold it.

10. The Director of Public Works should receive £1,000 rising to £1,200 per annum (triennial increments of £200). The rest of the Department might be graded as follows:—

Assistant Director, £600 per annum rising to £720 by triennial increments of £60.

Executive Engineers and Superintendent of Accounts, £480 per annum rising to £600 by triennial increments of £40.

Assistant Engineers and Principal Land Surveyor, £360 per annum rising to £480 by triennial increments of £40.

(Junior) Assistant Engineers (engaged locally), £270 per annum rising to £330 by triennial increments of £30.

11. I agree to the Principal Civil Medical Officer being given a salary of £800 per annum rising to £1,000 by triennial increments of £100.

As there is only one grade of medical officer (Assistant Surgeon) and opportunities of promotion are consequently very few, I think it will be best to place the salary of the Assistant Surgeons (including the Medical Officer of Health and the Health Officers of the Port, if not allowed private practice), on a scale of £480 per annum rising to £720 by triennial increments of £40, so as to give them a wider range of increments. The sterling salary of the present Port Health Officer, so long as he enjoys private practice, should only be £360.

The salary of the Veterinary Surgeon and Superintendent of the Vaccine Institute might be placed on a scale of £480 per annum, rising to £600 by triennial increments of £40.

The salaries proposed for the European Nurses should, as at the Straits Settlements, begin at £110 per annum, and rise by increments of £20 to £150. The same rates should be adopted for the Wardmasters and the Matron of the Venereal Ward.

12. I agree to the salary proposed for the Apothecary and Analyst, and as you have been informed an Assistant Apothecary has been appointed on the terms proposed in your despatch No. 107 of 21st March, viz., £250 a year rising to £275 if he is placed on the permanent establishment at the end of three years, with a further increment of £25 after three years' service on the permanent establishment.

13. I agree to the Harbour Master's salary being fixed at £780 per annum rising to £900 by two triennial increments of £60; and I think that the Assistant Harbour Master might be given the same salary as the Deputy Master Attendant, Singapore, viz., £480 per annum rising to £540 by two increments of £30. Similarly, the Government Marine Surveyor's salary should correspond with that of the simi-

lar official at Singapore, viz., £540 per annum rising to £660 by four increments of £30. For the Assistant Government Marine Surveyors and the remaining appointments in the Harbour Master's Departments, I accept the rates which Sir H. Blake proposes.

14. I am prepared to agree to the salary suggested for the Headmaster of Queen's College, viz., £660 per annum rising to £720 by two increments of £30. I agree to the salary proposed for the Second Master, viz., £540 per annum rising to £600 by increments of £30. The increments of the Senior Masters might be carried up to a maximum salary of £480 per annum, and those of the Junior Masters to a maximum £360 per annum.

15. The Headmistress of the Belilios Public School might similarly be allowed increments of salary up to a maximum of £480 per annum, and the same scale should be granted to the Head of the Kowloon School. Mr. James would then, on the completion of his probationary period, be placed on a scale of £350 per annum rising to £480 by triennial increments of £30. The salary to be assigned to the Headmistress of Kowloon School may remain on the scale proposed in your despatch No. 25 of 18th January last. The Master of the Belilios Reformatory might be given the same salary as a Third Grade Master in the Straits Settlements, viz., £225 per annum rising to £285 by two triennial increments of £30; and his Assistant should receive a salary of £150 per annum rising to £240 by two triennial increments of £30.

16. The salary proposed for the Postmaster at Shanghai seems adequate, except that I am inclined to think that the increments attached to the post should continue up to a maximum of £180 a year, in view of the desirability of retaining in the appointment an experienced postal official. Similarly I am doubtful whether the maximum salary provided for the Accountant and the Superintendent of the Money Order Office is quite enough; and I incline to think that a further increment of £25 should be given. The Examining Supervisors have, as you are aware, been appointed on salaries of £26 per annum rising to £245, but I do not object to their being placed on the scale now proposed, viz., £230 per annum rising to £280 by triennial increments of £25.

17. In agreeing to the salaries of the various postal appointments referred to in paragraph 7 of the despatch being fixed in sterling, I must not be understood to express any opinion as to whether or not these positions should hereafter be filled by officers selected from this country. No definite proposal to that effect has as yet been submitted.

18. As regards the Police appointments, I propose to adopt for Hongkong rates similar *mutatis mutandis* to those which I have approved for the Straits Settlements, viz:—

One Chief Inspector, £300 per annum rising to £360 by triennial increments of £30.

One Chief Inspector, £240 per annum rising to £300 by similar increments.

First Class Inspectors, £220 per annum rising to £240 after three years' service in that grade.

Second Class Inspectors, £180 a year.

Third Class Inspectors, £170 a year.

Sergeants, £140 per annum rising by triennial increments of £10 to £160.

Lance Sergeants, £120 per annum rising after three years' service in that grade to £130.

Constables, £100 per annum rising to £150 by triennial increments of £10.

These rates have been promised to candidates for the post of Constable, who are being selected by the Crown Agents in accordance with the Colonial Secretary's letter of the 6th February last.

You are aware that the Armourer Sergeant has been engaged on a salary of £225 a year.

19. I accept the salary proposed for the Assistant Superintendent of the Gaol. In order to assimilate the remaining salaries to those in the Straits Settlements the Chief Warder should be given £240 a year, rising to £300 by triennial increments of £30; the Principal Warders £168 rising to £224 by triennial increments of £20; the Warders £96, rising to £144 by four annual increments of £12.

20. The salary of the Land Officer should begin at £600 per annum and rise to £750, in order to compensate for the few opportunities for promotion which are likely to fall to the holder of the post. Moreover the existing

salary, converted into sterling at 3s. is as much as £310 per annum.

21. The Director of the Observatory might be placed on the same level as Class III of the cadet service. The importance of the Botanical and Afforestation Department is increasing, and I am not sure that the scale of salary which Sir H. Blake proposes is sufficient to secure an officer of high scientific attainments.

23. I would allow the First Assistant in the Observatory and the Assistant Superintendent in the Botanical and Afforestation Department, a further increment of £30 to a maximum salary of £360 per annum.

23. The salaries of the Sanitary Officers seem to me to be rather low, in view of the importance of well-qualified and experienced men for this work; and I would suggest that any rate the sterling rates might be not less than the existing dollar salaries converted at 3s. the dollar.

24. I do not see any objection to the other salaries proposed by Sir Henry Blake.

25. It is of importance that the introduction of the sterling scheme should not be delayed; and I shall therefore be glad if any representations that you may wish to make with a view to the reconsideration of any part of the proposals contained in this despatch can be made at the earliest possible date. If, however, you are of opinion that the scheme may be accepted with the amendments which I have proposed, I would suggest that the scheme, as amended, should be published forthwith; and that officers who are now serving on dollar salaries should be given a period of six months, during which they may elect to come under its provisions. This period should be extended in the case of officers on leave by so much time as is necessary to permit of the scheme being communicated to them from the Colonial Secretary's Office.—I have, etc.

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,

Hongkong, 4th September, 1902.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 171 of the 13th June on the subject of the introduction of sterling salaries into the Government service of this Colony, and I forward herewith the enclosed copies of the sterling scheme which has been revised in accordance with the instructions contained in your despatch.

2. This scheme is now being promulgated in the Colony under cover of a Circular, copy of which is enclosed.

3. Copies of the Circular and of the schedule of sterling salaries and instructions enclosed are being sent to officers who are on leave of absence with a request that if they desire to join the scheme they will send their acceptances to the Crown Agents for the Colonies who will be communicated with at the same time and asked to pay such officers at the new rates.

4. With regard to the scheme itself I have to make the following remarks:—

In the scheme of sterling salaries forwarded in Sir H. Blake's despatch of the 11th of December last the remark "No quarters" was set against the Principal Civil Medical Officer and all the Assistant Surgeons in the Medical Department, although the Principal Civil Medical Officer and Dr. Bell have quarters at the Government Civil Hospital and Dr. Thomson draws a house allowance of \$720 per annum.

It appears that the reason was that it was intended that these officers when they came on the sterling basis should pay rent for the quarters they enjoy. This principle has not, however, been adopted in this Colony.

5. In addition to the quarters occupied by Drs. Atkinson and Bell there will be, when the Victoria Hospital for Women and Children is completed, a third set of quarters available attached to that Hospital. It will depend in the future, as it has in the past, on the nature of the duties—whether in immediate connection with one or other of these hospitals or otherwise—that a Medical Officer is engaged on, whether he will have free quarters allocated to him or not.

6. I suggest therefore that the salaries as fixed by you be left as they stand, and that the

quarters be regarded as available for such officers as may be assigned to purely hospital work. Dr. Thomson who is in charge of the Gaol, and has therefore to live close to that institution, and his successors in office should continue to draw the house allowance of \$720 until such time as quarters near the Gaol are provided.

7. In the case of the Inspectors of Nuisances I have caused their salaries to be set down in the scheme at approximately the equivalents of their salaries in dollars with double exchange compensation, with their house allowances of \$360 per annum thrown into salary at approximately 1s. 9d. to the dollar. I consider these salaries large enough. The rates of increment have been altered from £10 to £5 a year in the case of the members of the Sanitary staff below the rank of Senior Inspector as the increments they at present enjoy are annual ones.

A note has been added that officers who occupy free quarters (as some of these men do, and as more of them hereafter may) will draw £32 a year less.

8. In the case of the Principal Warden Victoria Gaol, I have made the £6 increment annual instead of triennial. With triennial increments it would take 18 years to reach the maximum.

9. I shall inform you in due course of acceptances of the scheme.—I have, etc.,

W. J. GASCOIGNE,

Officer Administering the Government.

THE JAPANESE LOAN.

[FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]

Tokyo, 5th October.

THE NATURE OF THE LOAN.

From an editorial which has just appeared in the *Japan Times*, it would seem that an attempt is made to prove that the above loan is not a loan strictly speaking and that Japan will not in consequence of it be indebted any more than she is at present to any foreign country. It is hardly necessary for me to point out that this contention is unwarranted.

JAPANESE PRESS GLAD.

The Japanese Press is excessively pleased at this happy turn of events, all the more so as it was becoming increasingly evident to thoughtful observers that the Cabinet would have difficulty in drawing up the Budget for the next financial year. The Budget amounted at 260,000,000 yen, but the Government was reported in some quarters to be far short of that amount. To make both ends meet a great cutting down of expenses was necessary; and indeed the question of cutting down administrative expenses is one that has been very prominently before the public for the last two years. It is the powerful plank in Marquis Ito's programme; and, as all parties proposed to see the necessity of it, the Katsura Cabinet retained the services of Mr. Okuda who had been Director of the Legislative Bureau and Chairman of the Administrative Reform Commission in the Ito administration. Mr. Okuda accordingly continued to draw up the programme of retrenchment upon which he was engaged at the time of Marquis Ito's resignation, and about a week ago he finished it and presented it to his colleagues. Now Mr. Okuda is a strong self-willed man, although a young one, and having moreover no particular reason for sparing the Katsura Cabinet a certain amount of unpopularity in official circles by the recommendation of drastic reforms, he handed in a programme which is generally understood to have been of a fairly drastic character, dealing pretty exhaustively with various defects in the Japanese administrative system and recommending in particular a great curtailment of the administrative expenses; at present far too high on account of the delegation by officials of their work to minor officials and the passing of it on by these to others still farther down the official scale. Another theory he recommended was the creation or re-establishment of a Public Works Department; but all these suggestions were ignored by the Cabinet, whereupon Mr. Okuda immediately resigned. His resignation caused some little excitement in political circles for it seemed to imply that the Government would not bother its head about retrenchment; but now that the news of the loan has been made

public people can understand the Government phlegm.

MR. OKUDA'S RESIGNATION.

To show, before I go any further, the bad impression made on the public mind by the resignation of Mr. Okuda, and at the same time to bring a little more prominently before your readers this strong character who will undoubtedly, if he lives, be one of the leading statesmen of Japan, I shall here quote what the Tokyo papers said on the occasion.

Unusual importance was attached by several papers to the resignation of Mr. Okuda, not only because of the fact that the post he resigned is one carrying great weight, but also because of other considerations. For instance that resignation was interpreted as indicating the Ministerial inability to carry out administrative and financial reforms of any resolute character, reforms to which the Government had committed itself. Some even said that this resignation might be regarded as placing a sort of barrier between the Ministry and a certain outside force whose views Mr. Okuda is supposed to have represented.

The *Chuo* and *Yomiuri* both treated the incident editorially, and they both regard Mr. Okuda's resignation as a shadow cast by coming events. The *Chuo* said that the Ministerial rejection of Mr. Okuda's reform measure made it stand agliss, so astonished had it been by the news. If this news means, as the journal fears it means, the resolution of the Government not to carry out any decisive reform measure, then Mr. Okuda's resignation may serve as a fore-runner of a Ministerial crisis. The *Yomiuri* thought that the inability of the Ministry to carry out the reform desired by all classes must reflect on its prestige, and that Mr. Okuda's resignation may prove sooner or later its death wound.

THE COMING BUDGET.

Some vernacular papers assert, it is true, that there was never any difficulty about the budget for the coming fiscal year. The *Kokumin*, a very well-informed paper, says, for example: "Some would have us believe that the Government is finding it very difficult to compile a satisfactory budget for the fiscal year 1903-1904. We learn, however, that the Government is in a position to balance easily the two sides of the account even by including in the budget some new undertakings in addition to carrying out without any change the portions of the 'continuance' works previously apportioned for next year. The only question that the Government is considering at present is the question of how to enlarge the revenue surplus, and not the question of how to balance the two sides" (so the *Kokumin* learns, according to the *Japan Times* translation). "On the other hand one question which is receiving the Government's attention is that of keeping in force the present increased rate of land taxation. This question of continuing the present rate is not taken up, however, with the object of meeting any prospective deficit in the budget, but it is done so rather to find means for launching a new undertaking of a positive character. In other words the object kept in view in this connection is to put in practice a third programme of naval expansion. With this naval programme shelved for the present the Government finds it not only unnecessary to continue in force the present increased rate of the tax in question, but it may without any difficulty restore that rate to its original schedule in 1904, as provided by the law as it stands. Moreover, the Government will from that year be able to annually appropriate a sum of six and a half million yen to the 'war-vessels replenishing fund.' Further, after 1905 the budget will come to show a yearly surplus of six million yen in addition to the above."

However this may be, there is no doubt that Japan's finances are by no means in a bad state, as according to the official figures the excess of revenue over expenditure in ordinary accounts during the last six years was in round numbers as follows:—

1896-1897	...	yen	4,000,000
1897-1898	...	...	16,000,000
1898-1899	...	...	13,000,000
1899-1900	...	...	9,000,000
1900-1901	...	...	43,000,000
1901-1902	...	...	41,000,000

while the estimates for the current fiscal year are:—

1902-1903	...	yen	48,000,000
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It is true that the post-bellum programme of new undertakings have largely augmented expenditure in the extraordinary accounts without corresponding increase in the extraordinary receipts; but even then the excess of revenue over expenditure in total account for the same period stood as follows:—

1896-1897	...	yen	18,002,000
1897-1898	...	...	2,701,000
1898-1899	...	...	296,000
1899-1900	...	...	88,000
1900-1901	...	...	3,100,000
1901-1902	...	...	289,000

The state of things disclosed by these figures should be regarded as satisfactory when we consider that the total expenditures in these years are four times the total expenditures in 1895-1896 when they stood at 85,317,180 yen. One bad feature in Japan's financial position was of course the fact that her people are taxed to the last limit, taxed far more heavily than the most heavily taxed peoples of Europe when we take into consideration the comparative poverty of the Japanese. Another bad feature was that their surpluses were devoured by ever-increasing extraordinary expenditure that necessitated the floating of loans and seemed to keep the country continuously hovering over the brink of financial ruin.

It is said that in the present fiscal year the Government had determined to float none of the usual home bonds, but to meet the extraordinary expenditure with the surplus out of the ordinary revenue, which some journals assert to be nearly 5,000,000 yen. In other words the Government meant to meet out of its ordinary receipts the expenses of the railways, telephones, and other official undertakings that were originally included in the list of the works to be carried out by means of loans.

THE ARRANGER OF THE LOAN.

Mr. Soyeda, the Director of the Industrial Bank, the institution which arranged the loan with the H. & S. Bank, is the lion of the hour. The *Nichiichi* has interviewed him and obtained from him a history of the transaction. He says that the Bank continued off and on after its establishment to receive comparatively small applications from foreigners desirous of investing their money in Japanese bonds. In May last the Bank was approached by a certain party as to a big sale of bonds; but the negotiations ended in failure as the conditions offered were not quite satisfactory. The overtures were renewed by the same party towards the latter end of August with the result already stated.

Mr. Soyeda thinks this stroke of business just in the ordinary day's work of the Bank, which gets nothing out of it, he says, but increased prestige. The only conspicuous feature in the present transaction is, he thinks, the fact that the 5 per cent. bonds for which a market could not be found at home can be sold in a foreign country. He is specially glad to hear from London that the English market is favourably disposed to the sale of the bonds.

SATISFACTION OVER THE LOAN.

What pleases not only Mr. Soyeda but all Japanese in connection with this loan is the fact that it has been concluded without any loss of *amour propre* on the part of Japan, in other words that neither the Industrial Bank nor the Japanese Government has been made to submit to hard terms such as would scarcely be demanded of a South American Republic but which is considered by some financiers to be good enough for Japan. Of course the face value of the bonds is to be endorsed in British gold and the bonds are to be endorsed as instrument of exchange. Mr. Soyeda airily dismisses this as a little arrangement "only for convenience sake," but, however that may be, he is perfectly right in declaring the present transaction a great advance on the sale of the war bonds several years ago.

The price of the bonds is to be remitted to Japan as soon as the bonds shall have reached London, and probably a greater part may come in by the end of the year and the rest by February next at the latest. Mr. Soyeda thinks that the great secrecy kept about the transaction till it had been concluded was an important cause of success, and he hopes that with this sale both the Government and the Bank of Japan will be enabled more efficiently to conduct their respective parts in the economy of the country.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 12th October.

THE LATE VICEROY TAO MU.

H. E. Tao Mu, the late Viceroy of Canton, died on the 10th inst. between 11 and 12 o'clock at night, after a protracted and lingering illness. His Excellency had applied three times for leave to retire and go home to be nursed and attended to, but was refused. When it was found that he could not hold the office any longer and was unfit to perform the public functions allotted to him, at last he was permitted to retire. His medical adviser considering it too dangerous to allow him to take a voyage home, H.E. took up his temporary residence in one of the branch establishments of the Salt Commissioner in the Southern suburb, and died there. Viceroy Tao Mu was a native of Chekiang, and in his younger days was considered one of the ablest and cleverest scholars in China, for he successfully passed nearly all the literary examinations, and was a member of the Imperial academy, etc. In his last examination H.E. Chang Chih-tung, who was one of the examiners, so much admired his ability and his essays that he adopted him as one of his disciples. H.E. Tao began his official career as a secretary to the late Viceroy Cho Chung Tang in Kansu, who appreciated his services very highly, and after memorialising the Throne, made him a magistrate there; from which position he was promoted provincial Treasurer, and afterwards became Governor of Chinese Turkestan. Subsequently there arose a Mahomedan rebellion, and His Excellency despatched Tung Fushang to suppress it. The rebellion over, Tao Mu was appointed Governor of the provinces of Kashi and Shansi. Three years ago he became Viceroy of Kwangtung and Kwangsi in succession to the late Viceroy Li Hung-chang. In Canton, although he did not do anything extraordinary to distinguish himself, yet he was well known to be just and straightforward, upright, and economical. He was a reformer, and shortly after taking up the Viceroyalty in Canton he memorialised the Throne recommending the abolition of the wonted military examination by bow and arrows and lifting of blocks of stone as useless nowadays. He was very strict with his subordinates, especially the military class but fair and just in treatment of them. He took great pains in raising money for the Government to pay the foreign indemnity. Before his death he was suffering most severely from chronic asthma, and of late had been spitting blood.

KWANGSI TROUBLES.

It is almost table talk in Canton that the rebellion in Kwangsi is getting more serious day by day; that several districts have been occupied by the rebels; that the Governor-General, Shao Yun-chou, has wired to the authorities in Canton for provisions and ammunition, and that if the latter delay there is a fear that the Imperialist soldiers will turn rebels, when the whole province will be in their power.

SWATOW.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Swatow, 13th October.

MOVEMENTS IN THE I. M. CUSTOMS.

Several changes have of late taken place in the local Customs Staff. Messrs. Conklin, Tide-surveyor, and Blake, Assistant Examiner, have been transferred to Whampoa and Hoihow respectively. Appointments to this post are five, viz., Mr. P. von Itauterfeld as Deputy Commissioner, Messrs. Martin and Grape as Assistant Examiners, Mr. Barton as Boarding-officer and Mr. Frederick as Tidewater. The personnel here now is very cosmopolitan.

THE KWONG HING CO.

For over two months there have been no importations of opium owing to the intention of the above Co., which is locally known as the "Boiled Opium Tax Co.," to impose a tax of about \$200 per chest of opium. What steps led to the establishment of this concern need not be recapitulated, but up till this date no taxes have been collected whatever and one can safely predict that, in view of the firm stand adopted

by the representatives of the British Government, here as elsewhere, the days of the existence of this Co. are numbered.

After repeated requests from Chinese merchants Messrs. Bradley & Co. decided to put the matter to a test, and imported lately ten chests of opium from Hongkong. The Kwong Hing Co., finding itself powerless to levy this new tax on a foreign firm, notified all opium-merchants not to buy any opium from Messrs. Bradley & Co. In the event of non-compliance they threatened to have the offenders severely punished and their houses closed. In view of this attitude of the Opium Firm, Mr. Richardson, head of the firm of Bradley & Co., who is greatly respected by the native merchants, fully intends now to win the test case, and he may well reckon on the energetic support of the British Consul here.

MAILS FOR COAST PORTS.

I hear that Mr. E. Cornwall Lewis, Acting Postmaster, will ere long leave your colony. As through his painstaking and never-tiring energies many improvements have taken place in the General Post Office, I trust that before departing from Hongkong he will confer a boon on those in the Coast ports by remedying an existing anomaly with regard to closing of mails for the ports of Swatow, Amoy, and Foochow. One almost always notices vessels advertised to leave Hongkong for Coast ports at daylight on such and such a date. The General Post Office hence closes its mails at 5 p.m. the day previous to the steamers sailing. The latter, however, depart usually between 9 and 12 a.m., instead of as advertised. I don't know whether the General Post Office is aware of this fact, which is, nevertheless, very familiar. Considering the difference between the advertised time of departure and the actual time, the powers that be should put a stop to such an irregularity. For delivering mails late, a master of a steamer is fined in Hongkong. Why could not some steps be taken whereby the postal authorities would be enabled to close the mails for coast ports later, say at 8 to 9 a.m. on the day of the steamers departure, instead of as at present? To give one practical illustration of the above anomaly, let me just mention that a steamer is supposed to sail at daylight on a certain date, the mails by which have, of course, been closed the day previous at 5 p.m. The boat really leaves at say 9 or 10 a.m. or perhaps later, but the people in the coast ports do not receive the *Daily Press* of that day's issue. If the mail closed as suggested above, a great improvement would be created. This is certainly only a solitary example. If more urgent and forcible proof be required of this anomalous state of affairs, I would point out that owing to the existing practice of early mail closing, home mails are frequently received here two and four days after they have been deposited in the General Post Office in Hongkong.

FORMOSA.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Taihoku, Formosa, 8th October.

THE ERUPTION OF MOUNT RIGYO.

The eruption at Mount Rigyo, South Formosa, we find, in the light of recent investigations, to have been really of a volcanic nature, though not at all alarming in extent. There was at first a general feeling among scientific men at the capital, that the so-called volcano was merely the spontaneous ignition of some oil-spring or an eruption of natural gas, as such natural phenomena had in the past been incorrectly reported as volcanoes. We now are in possession, however, of the report of the investigations made by the government and we find that the original account sent to the Press was without error. On the 20th of September, a column of fire and smoke burst from a newly formed crater which appeared in the centre of a cultivated tract about a half mile north of the summit of Rigyo hill. Quantities of a greyish mud together with hot water were ejected and these flowed down on to the neighbouring fields, effecting some damage to the fields in a limited area surrounding the crater. It was possible, however, at times during the eruption to approach within some 40 or 50 rods of the crater, nearer approach being difficult owing to the rain of

mud and hot water. On the evening of the 20th, a second crater formed some 20 yards distant, from which there also issued fire and smoke. The eruption gradually decreased in violence and on the 29th ceased altogether. At present there remain two small extinct craters, which appear to be entirely inactive. During the eruption there was a rumbling sound likened by the observer to distant thunder, and there was a noticeable trembling of the ground in the vicinity.

While the eruption was very slight, and entirely without alarming features even for those living in close proximity to it, it is interesting as conclusive evidence of volcanic activity in the island.

FOOCHOW.

The following items are from the *Foochow Echo* of the 4th inst.:-

Hon. Chen Tung Shu, *Lekin* Taotai and Commissioner of the Foreign Board, left for the North by the s.s. *Haeslin* on its last trip. He goes to Peking for an audience and is doubtless charged with important business with the throne. The Honourable Taotai has been one of the local officials to conduct much of the business of H. E. the Viceroy with the Foreign Consuls and was a most valued advisor during the Boxer troubles of 1900.

Hon. Lu Wei Ying, Sub-Prefect, is also leaving the port for a visit to his home. Mr. Lu is most highly esteemed by the Foreign Consuls and by all foreigners with whom he has been brought in contact at this port, for several years. He was most efficient in personal efforts to preserve the peace, and protect life and property during the Boxer year. Many nights during that anxious summer he spent several hours in personal visits to the settlement, and often went about in a private chair that he might discover any movements of evil-disposed persons. He has shown himself most friendly, just, and faithful as an official, and has the best wishes of the foreign residents for promotion and prosperity.

A fire broke out on the City side of the river and not far from its bank on Friday night between nine and ten o'clock and owing to the extreme dryness of everything spread with alarming rapidity. It blazed fiercely until past midnight and only subsided towards the early morning, after many houses had been reduced to ruins. There seem to have been no loss of life and the cause of the outbreak remains uncertain.

The Foochow Gun Club's monthly cup was shot for on Green Island on Wednesday. Mr. Howell headed the list, winning by his points, Mr. Geo. Groig (the last holder) scoring an equal number of "kills" and at one time looking as if he might press the winner hard.

The wedding was celebrated at the British Episcopal Church on the 1st instant of Dr. George Wilkinson with Miss Amy Oxley, both members of the C.M.S. The service was performed by the Ven. Archdeacon Wolfe, assisted by the Rev. John Martin.

The Chapel on the heights of the beautiful mountain of Kuliang, near Foochow, was the scene of a very pretty wedding on the afternoon of Tuesday, September 23rd, when Miss Mary Belle Cope, of Chattanooga Tenn. became the wife of Rev. Harry R. Caldwell, of the American Methodist Mission at Foochow.

In its issue of the 8th inst. the *P. & T. Times* says:-The Empress Dowager's reception of the Legation ladies at the Summer Palace was a very brilliant affair and one of very considerable magnitude. Crowds lined the whole route till the ladies got on board of the Imperial barges. Tientsin seems to have been strongly represented on the occasion, four present and three ex-residents having taken a part in the ceremony. There was quite an excitement in the Throne Room when it was discovered that two or three of our younger Tientsin ladies spoke Chinese fluently, and both the Hsi Tai Ho (Dowager Empress) and the Tai Ho (Empress) took advantage of the novel circumstance and conversed freely with their youthful guests. They went further, and expressed a few complimentary sentences in English with excellent precision.

KWEILIN, KWANGSI.

Kweilin 20th September.

THE SO-CALLED REBELLION.

Several pieces of information have just come in about the remains or possibly recrudescence of the rebellion, so called. It is reported, but on what authority I cannot tell, that the city of Hs'ihao, in the prefecture of Kingyuenfu, in the west of the province, has surrendered to the rebels, and that the official is a prisoner. These rebels are reported to be disbanded braves, reinforced by malcontents.

Then again another place, a market named Huangnien, in Yuinfuhsien, in the prefecture of Kweilin, not so far to the south of this place, is in the hands of rebels, who are in some strength. This is far removed from the other centre, and certainly has no connection direct with it. Whether these are disbanded braves, or just malcontents, I have not yet been able to find out. This may be a rising of the brotherhood, which has been increasing in power during the past year especially.

A NEW BROTHERHOOD.

This "Brotherhood," *Kotihui*, is a secret society that is rapidly coming into prominence, and is reported not to be more than a few years old. Secret meetings are held in the mountains at night, no country offering such facilities for such as Kwangsi, but up to the present it has done nothing, but is waiting until the time is ripe. It seems to be a rebel society, whether anti-foreign or not I do not know, probably the former, as there is certainly much anti-foreign feeling around on account of the cholera. This brotherhood appears to have a large following, and it is with reference to this presumably that recent proclamations have been issued urging people to give up such things, and stating that if they repent they will be forgiven, if not, that they had better look out for the consequences. The punishing of people found out at night is probably aiming in the same direction.

VLADIVOSTOCK.

Vladivostock 27th September.

INTERNATIONAL COURTESIES.

During the past summer this port has been visited by several men-of-war belonging to the French, German, Italian, Austrian, and United States navies. The vessels belonging to the United States which called here were the *Kentucky*, *New Orleans*, and *New York*. Owing, however, to the prevalence of cholera last month, the men from the war-ships were not allowed "shore-leave," much to their disappointment. The *New Orleans* happening to arrive on the day a ball was given at the Naval Club by the Russian naval officers in war-ships lying in the harbour, invitations were extended to the American officers and accepted. A few days later a special entertainment was provided in the circus building for the men of the French vessels, the performance being also attended by the officers of the *New Orleans* and a detachment of one hundred marines. The French marines attending numbered over eight hundred. On landing the visitors were met by about two thousand Russian sailors, by whom they were escorted to the building, accompanied by bands playing French and Russian national airs.

On the occasion of the visit of the *Illinois*, the flagship of Admiral Rodgers, another entertainment was arranged, the programme this time taking the form of boat-races between the Russian sailors and their American comrades, many of which were well-contested, though the boats manned by the Russians were mostly successful.

M. DE WITTE'S VISIT.

There are good grounds for believing that during his visit to Vladivostock, M. de Witte will give a favourable reply to the petition presented to him some time ago by the local merchants through the Exchange Committee with regard to the establishment here of a free zone harbour, where all dutiable goods imported from abroad shall be discharged from vessels in a part of the harbour which will be specially assigned for this purpose and be exempt from the numerous and tiresome formalities to which goods are submitted by the local Customs officials. Within the "free zone" will be discharged only such foreign goods as are intended for tranship-

ment either by sea or rail to open Russian ports in Manchuria, and also such goods the ultimate destination of which has not been determined previous to arrival. The above proposal has been framed by the local merchants in order to preserve the transit trade for Northern Manchuria and northern free ports belonging to Russia, and thus prevent the expense and delay incurred at the Customs-house, which is doing considerable injury to local trade here, and has already succeeded in transferring a considerable amount of the business to Port Arthur, the latter being a free port, and thus lessening the importance of Vladivostock as a commercial centre. Should the Minister give a favourable reply to the proposals of the merchants it is hoped here that this city will witness a big revival in trade, which has fallen off enormously since the establishment of a Customs house and the closing of the port to free trade on January 1st last year.—*Kobe Chronicle*.

NORTHERN NOTES.

The following items are from the *P. and T. Times* of the 4th, 6th, 7th and 9th inst.:—

We regret to see premiums on foreign cheques still keep high in the City.

The Prefect and Magistrate have jointly notified that silver is not to be exported.

A tax of 4 cash per catty has been proposed on all salt sold throughout the Empire.

H. E. the Viceroy is despatching several hundred soldiers to preserve order on the line beyond Shanhaikwan.

We hear that the race pony *Chisur* goes to Shanghai, and that his price was the modest sum of Tls. 300.

A well known skipper vows that there is more water in the river fairway now than there has been for eight years.

The indemnity for the Mission property destroyed in Hunan where the two missionaries were murdered is stated in the native press to be Tls. 70,000.

The fact that a child in Peking has been taken ill after swallowing one of the new copper coins has started a prejudice against the new coinage.

Shansi officials in Peking are memorialising for the release of ex-censor Sung Po-lu, who is still in prison on charges which cannot be substantiated.

The Central Government contemplate the appointment of a Governor in Chihli Province, the work being so extensive.

There are rumours that the German military bridge across the river is about to be removed further down stream, probably on the Belgian Concession, as its present position interferes with the Russian Bund.

T'ang Taotai is stated to be much better, but is still confined to his room. He was able to receive the Tientsin Prefect yesterday and to discuss with him financial conditions in the City. They proposed trying to raise a loan from one of the foreign banks.

In the weekly edition of the *Times* last to hand we see a list of the congratulatory telegrams to the King received from the Colonies. It does not appear that the message from Tientsin was ever acknowledged, though those from Hongkong and Shanghai were duly noted.

Ships are coming up so easily and frequently that a quartet at the Bund is hardly any longer worth chronicling. The most enthusiastic appreciators of the new (or restored) regime are the Chinese passengers who escape the harpies that blockade the two stations, to say nothing of the Tongku boatmen.

Warren's Circus continues to have bumper houses in Peking. On Wednesday Sir Robert Hart, the foreign military commanders and many high Chinese officials, including the Governor of Peking, attended.

The *Jé Jé* informs us that the Customs Taotai at Newchwang has been instructed by the Board of Foreign Affairs to proceed to Newchwang and prepare to receive back the city from the Russian authorities.

It is stated in the native Press that among the conditions which the Russian authorities are pressing in Peking, in addition to the cost of upkeeping the line outside Shanhaikwan, are the following:—

1. That Russia be granted the first privilege

of using the line for transportation of troops when any foreign troops are being moved; also that Russia be given the first refusal of any Chinese transports for the same purpose.

2. That Russian mails must be carried free of charge and be fully protected.

The Coreau Minister has arrived in Peking with a large retinue.

Sheng Tajen's father is said to be seriously ill, and is not expected to live.

Chi Hung Chi, President of the Board of Foreign Affairs, and Cheng Po Hsi, Comptroller of Education, have exchanged posts.

Viceroy Chang Chih-tung, says *L'Impartial*, wires that traffic is now running on the line between Hankow and Hainan in Honan.

The Chinese are disappointed to find the dockyard at Tongku nothing but a piece of land, everything of value having been removed, says the *Chih Pao*.

A traveller just arrived in Tientsin overland, says he was surprised to find large bodies of troops in Honan, commanded by military officers of evidently high rank.

In accordance with a former reform edict of the Emperor's, the educational authorities in this province now propose to turn all the temples into schools, and save the expense of new buildings. It is stated the movement will begin with Tientsin.

The presentations to Jung Lu on his daughter's marriage are said to have included Tls. 320,000 in cash, besides 3 million dollars worth of presents. We do not vouch for these figures.

A tour at party just returned from the Ming Tombs speak highly of the attention and courtesy paid them on the road. When returning to Peking they met a body of soldiers off duty: the men immediately formed line, stood to attention and saluted as the little cavalcade passed, a great contrast to things in the former regime.

We have some reason for supposing that some temporary changes are imminent in the American Consulate. The Consul Ragsdale and Miss Ragsdale will probably go home for six months furlough before the closing of the river and Mr. Charles Gammon will, *pro tem.*, assume the duties of U. S. Marshal and Acting-Consul.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE RESUMPTION OF INSANITARY PROPERTIES: A MUNICIPAL COUNCIL WANTED.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

18, Bank Buildings, Hongkong, 10th October.

SIR.—I beg to submit for the consideration of the Legislative Council and the public that the provision of a sum of \$100,000 only in the forthcoming year for the purpose of compensation for the resumption of insanitary properties cannot be considered as by any means adequate in view of the enormous nature of the task which requires to be dealt with and of the annual recurrence of plague, with its resulting quarantine and damage to business.

The insanitary buildings problem cannot, I think, be satisfactorily solved by occasional votes of \$100,000, but can only be settled upon similar lines to a Naval ship-building programme, that is to say, by the preparation of a definite and thorough scheme of improvements, spread over a certain number of years, say five or seven, which scheme should be vigorously and continuously carried out, altogether irrespective of any changes in the personnel of the local Government.

I must confess that personally I am in favour of a Municipal Council being started in this Colony; for I am firmly convinced that the creation of a representative body is absolutely necessary for the purpose of strengthening the hands of the local Government in grappling with the large sanitary questions ahead of us, which will probably involve the expenditure of some millions of dollars.

It has been suggested from time to time that there is a lack of public spirit in this Colony in

regard to Municipal matters, but I venture to think that such a statement is inaccurate. It is not the public spirit which is wanting but the means of giving expression to it and rendering it effective.

Our Sanitary Board is certainly not an adequate substitute for a Municipal Council, because

- (1) Only two out of its eleven members can be elected by the public, and
- (2) It has absolutely no funds at its disposal, and, therefore, no power to carry out its own resolutions.

I may remind your readers that some years ago, at an election which was organised by Dr. James Cantlie, the public decided, by a proportion of 10 or 11 votes to 1, that it was advisable that Municipal Government should be established in this Colony, and I would suggest that another such election be held shortly, and that, if there is a large majority in favour of a Municipal Council, a petition be presented to the Secretary of State for the Colonies praying that this Colony may have adequate representation in Municipal matters accorded to it.

I need hardly say that, in making such a suggestion, I am actuated by no ill-will towards the members of the local Executive with all of whom, as Acting Attorney-General, I have co-operated in the most friendly manner in the past. Our present Colonial Secretary who was good enough to take the chair at my lecture on "Some Serious Local Problems," in May, 1900, stated on that occasion: "In sanitary matters no Governor can make any headway in legislation unless he carried public opinion with him. He must have a strong backing, and I must say that in this Colony the Governor does not always get sufficient backing when it comes to sanitary legislation."

I fully concur in the above remarks of Mr. May, and my desire is, through the medium of Municipal representation, to procure for the Governor and the Government of this Colony the necessary backing of public opinion.—Yours, etc.,

H. E. POLLOCK.

STORM-WARNINGS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 10th October.

SIR,—With reference to the question of storm-warnings now occupying the attention of the Chamber of Commerce and the shipmasters of this port, there appears to be no reason why the question should not be settled on the lines of reason and expediency. We can calmly consider what it is that is wanted here without imputing motives to anyone, and for the nonce I think we had better consider Sicawei as non-existent. Shanghai and Sicawei are well able to stand on their own feet, and comparisons at present would be odious.

Let us suppose that we have all started on a clean page, with no other idea than to elaborate the best system of storm-warning that can be devised in the interests of the trade of this great port. Then comes the question: "Is there anything defective in our present system of storm-warnings?" We have in evidence the signatures of thirty-eight well-known shipmasters, that things are not as they should be. As a reasonable estimate, we may take the value of the steamers commanded by these gentlemen at say, £20,000 sterling each, and the cargoes they carry per trip at, say, £7,000 sterling, a sufficiently low estimate, which would give a round value of over one million pounds sterling at stake when these thirty-eight steamers are at sea, besides the lives of crew and passengers, for which owners are liable up to £15 per gross ton of these vessels. Now, the custodians of all this property, and these valuable lives, must be admitted to have an interest in the matter of storm-warnings, and cannot be set aside by the plea that they are not meteorologists according to Dr. Doberck, that is to say, skilled in running an observatory; they do not pretend to this, but as a matter of fact they are, one and all, first-class practical meteorologists, and their knowledge enables them to take vessels safely through all kinds of weather, from fogs to typhoons, and without such knowledge they would be helpless, for there are no observatories

to issue warnings on the high seas, other than those supplied by nature, so that a shipmaster at sea has nothing to guide him save his own judgment. But reliable information of the movements of storms at a distance, supplied before he leaves port, may be of inestimable value to him, and the most efficient and best manner of supplying this information is what we want to get at.

Why are our present signals objected to? One reason is, I think, that they are too few, and too vague. Most of us can tell long before any drums hoisted that there is a depression to the eastward by the drift of the clouds, the behaviour of the barometer, and the general appearance of the weather, and, bar telegrams, I do not think Mr. Figg himself can do much more. But the knowledge is vague; we want to know more than this. At present there are four signals and the gun in use during the day-time, and two night signals made by lanterns. Now, when any one of these signals is hoisted, the boat population get restive and want to clear out for shelter, days before there is any need. Small blame to these poor people! Well, this stops work afloat, and merchants have to stand the loss, simply because a typhoon is known to be crossing Luzon and cannot possibly get here under 70 hours. The drum is up, however, and John Chinaman says "Have got typhoon!" So much for the vagueness; but, we will be told, the signal is meant for the shipping; and so it is, but John thinks it is meant for him too. There should be a rule or understanding that the boats are not to stop work till the first gun is fired and after that a special signal be hoisted to mean "Boats take shelter"; the first gun to be fired when the storm is within a certain distance of the Colony and strong wind is expected. A gun fired and not followed by a signal is useless. For the shipping, the most valuable information that can be given is to publish the latitude and longitude of the centre of any storm approaching us, or moving in any other direction, every four hours, or oftener; and post the meteorological register regularly on the wharves and other prominent places where it can be seen by shipmasters. Of course to be able to give the position of storm-centres approximately, which is all that is required, cordial co-operation with the Philippines and the South Cape, Formosa, is absolutely necessary, and a system of telegrams arranged, and it should be understood that when a storm has passed north of Turnabout, the northern stations should take it up and wire bearings. We are concerned with the storms which pass over the Philippines or come through the Bashee Channel and those which re-curve and pass up the Formosa Channel. Then as to the number of the signals to be shown before the storms come within our ken: the requirements for this port are not quite the same as for Shanghai, which port has 77 numerical signals made by flags relating to the situation of storms, and eight other signals also made by flags, indicating the direction from which the gale is expected to blow, and the places threatened; and these signals seem to meet with general approval, as suited to Shanghai.

Possibly Mr. Figg's objection to flags as the medium is well founded, for various reasons known to experts, and not necessary to go into, but we have now the new commercial code with a system of distant signals depending on form, not on colour, which would lend itself exactly to our needs. With two balls, two cones, and one drum, any signal in the new code-book can be made, or a semaphore of four arms can be used in a similar manner; or a series of 37 single hoist-signals can be made with the symbols or shapes, which would probably be found sufficient for our wants. The plan is simple, and I think suited to our needs. For instance:—

(Signal.)

- A. Cone, cone, ball (112). Typhoon entering Bashee Channel, travelling W.N.W.
 - B. Cone, ball, cone (121). Typhoon re-curving to the N.E. near Mandarin's Cap.
 - C. Cone, ball, ball (122). Centre will pass near Hongkong, violent shift to S.W. expected.
- And so on. These signals could be rendered distinctly meteorological by adopting two diamond shapes instead of two balls. One diamond appearing in every hoist would indicate local meteorological signals and thus not interfere with the code-book. The shapes need

not be larger than those now in use at the Peak, but these are matters of detail, the great point being that every hoist would convey definite information.

The signal "typhoon east of the Colony" is vague and not up-to-date, that is to say, it means a typhoon on a point on the eastern horizon bearing anywhere between N.E. and S.E. The vagueness of this is apparent, and a difference of bearing of eight points laid off on the chart from Hongkong will make the point clear. East of Hongkong is South Cape, Formosa, N.E. is the Formosa Channel, S.E. the coast of Luzon; can anybody say that the signal "typhoon east of the Colony" is anything but vague? It is no more than official confirmation of what every seaman already knew, and these signals are said to be for the benefit of seamen. The same applies to the other signals.

We require definite information; anything else is mere "look see" and useless.—Yours, etc.,
G. C. ANDERSON.

DRAINS AND DUST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 11th October.

SIR,—A fellow feeling makes us wondrous kind, and I sympathise with you both in regard to the foul-smelling drains, of which mention was made recently in a paragraph in your valued paper, and the invasion of dust to your office from the building now in course of demolition, in the same lane. Both these nuisances are so easily preventable that I am surprised they can be allowed to continue. The dust from houses in course of demolition should be laid by water from the sea, instead of being allowed to be the sport of the N.E. monsoon. Regarding the smells from sewer-openings of the new reclamation, I must say they are at times intolerable. Sitting in my office I have sometimes to leave my desk, and go somewhere to get fresh air. The worst of it is that it seems to me to be almost pure sulphuretted hydrogen gas, a rank poison, of which my chemical text-books tell me 1 part in 1,500 of air, according to Faraday, will kill a bird, and dogs die in that which contains 1 part in 800.—Yours, etc.,

DES VŒUX ROAD.

THE CHINA-BORNEO CO., LD.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

An extraordinary general meeting of the above company was held at the Company's offices, Queen's Buildings, on the 11th inst., for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, passing the special resolutions including those for the voluntary winding-up of the Company, and the appointment of liquidator, necessary for the purpose of carrying out a provisional agreement entered into between the China-Borneo Company, Ltd., and the Borneo Hardwood Company, Ltd., of London, having for its objects the sale by the China-Borneo Company, Ltd., and by the Borneo Hardwood Company, Ltd., of their several undertakings to and the amalgamation of such two Companies in a new Company to be formed for such purposes. Hon. C. S. Sharp (chairman) presided, and there were also present Messrs. E. Osborne, J. C. Peter, A. G. Stokes, A. G. Wood, M. A. O. Baptista, J. A. Jupp, G. C. C. Master, W. H. Wickham, Leong Shui Lun and W. D. Jupp (acting manager).

The notice calling the meeting having been read,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, we have called you together on this occasion in pursuance of the notice just read, which sets forth in general terms the objects and business of this meeting, and I shall now endeavour to give you as full particulars as possible of the proposed scheme, to enable you to judge of it and to come to a decision whether to accept or reject same. Some considerable time ago approaches were made to this Company by third parties in London, friends of ourselves, and of the gentlemen principally interested in the Borneo Hardwood Co., Ltd., a London Company having a large timber concession, and an establishment (including a sawmill) for the carrying on of the timber business at Kudat, situated in Marudu Bay, at the North end of British North Borneo, and about 16 hours by

steamer from Sandakan, the object of such approaches being to bring about if possible the amalgamation of the businesses of the two Companies. Due consideration was given to these by the Consulting Committee, and various tentative proposals were exchanged on the subject, but same did not lead to any conclusion, and the project was allowed to drop until matters could be discussed personally with the parties interested in London by our Manager, Mr. J. Wheeley, who proceeded home on leave at the end of March last. Since his arrival in England, Mr. Wheeley has been looking into the matter, and we have had an exchange of telegrams and letters with him, resulting in certain proposals, which we consider it will be to the advantage of the Company to accept, and we therefore recommend them for your approval. In connection with the negotiations which have taken place it may be of some interest to you to mention that Mr. Wheeley has been in consultation with Sir C. P. Chater, also at present in England, who has given his assistance, and also his approval of the proposals. Broadly speaking, the proposals made are to the following effect:—It is proposed that the China Borneo Co., Ltd., and the Borneo Hardwood Co., Ltd., should be amalgamated on the following lines: A new limited liability Company to be formed, and registered at Hongkong, with direction and management here. Capital to be say \$720,000 in 60,000 shares of \$12 each, of which, for the present, say 46,000 fully paid shares—\$552,000 only will be issued, as set forth hereafter, leaving 14,000 shares—\$168,000 to be issued later on, as may be required. The new Company to take over the properties, lands, buildings, business goodwill, and assets and liabilities, contracts, and engagements of the China Borneo Co., Ltd., as from 1st January, 1901 (excepted from the above the uncalled capital, and the dividend which was paid in March last). In consideration for the foregoing the shareholders of the China-Borneo Co., Ltd., to receive in exchange for their present shares, *pro rata* according to their holdings, 25,000 fully paid shares in the new Company of the nominal value of \$300,000. The new Company to take over as from date of valuation the business and goodwill, timber concession, and various assets and properties of the Borneo Hardwood Co., Ltd., which have been valued by Mr. W. G. Darby (but not their debts, liabilities, or current contracts of obligations, except such as the last two named items as may be approved of) in consideration for which the Borneo Hardwood Co., Ltd., or its nominees to be allotted 11,000 fully paid shares in the new Company of the nominal value of \$132,000 and on or before completion of the transfers of the foregoing properties to the new Company the Borneo Hardwood Co., Ltd., to subscribe, or to procure subscriptions by responsible persons for shares in the new Company at par of the nominal value of 120,000 making a total amount to be issued at present of \$552,000. The unissued shares, when it is desired to issue them, to be offered in the first instance for subscription at par to the shareholders of the new Company *pro rata* according to their holdings. The ratification of these proposals to be made on or before 30th October, 1902. The new Company to commence on 1st January, 1902, and in the meantime the businesses of the two Companies to be carried on as for account of the new Company, the management of the Borneo Hardwood Co., Ltd., being in the meantime carried on by China-Borneo Co., Ltd. By these terms shareholders in this Company will receive, in exchange for their shares, fully paid shares in the proposed new Company for the nominal value of \$300,000 (less expenses as hereafter referred to), as against the present paid-up capital of this Company of \$117,080, 6,584 shares of which carry a further liability of \$5 each. The other side will receive in payment for the business, goodwill, properties, assets, and effects taken over fully paid shares in the proposed new Company of the nominal value of \$132,000, which is approximately the value placed on same by our Manager in Borneo, Mr. W. G. Darby. They will also subscribe the sum of \$120,000 in exchange for which they will get fully paid shares of the same nominal value. This cash subscription will therefore provide the new Company with working capital, which, so far as can at present be judged, will be about sufficient for its purposes, but this will have to

be more accurately judged later on by actual experience. It is not proposed that the remainder of the proposed new Company's capital, say \$168,000, should be issued for the present, and this will be kept in reserve to issue later on as circumstances may render necessary or desirable. It will no doubt occur to you to enquire as to the prospects of working to advantage the combined Companies with a paid-up capital of £552,000. Regarding this I may say that, as the fusion of the two Companies will introduce the interests of certain parties in London who are already largely interested in, or in touch with, various enterprises which have considerable requirements, present and prospective, for such timbers as the proposed new Company will supply, we are of opinion that there is an excellent prospect for very considerably increasing the output of such timber, and for finding markets for same. Hitherto this Company has with but few exceptions, practically confined its operations in the timber business to the supplying of requirements in Hongkong and Borneo itself, and this has pretty well taken up the Company's resources in the way of capital and equipment, but it would appear pretty certain that other markets requiring extensive supplies of both rough and sawn timber will shortly become available, and by this amalgamation of interests giving us increased working capital, and equipment, generally, we shall be in a position to avail of the larger requirements we expect to have to deal with. In regard to the business, assets and effects of the Borneo Hardwood Co., Ltd., proposed to be taken over by the new Company I may mention that the project has the entire support and approval of our Manager in Borneo, who considers it would be a desirable acquisition. He has recently been visiting their establishments, &c., with the view of examining same, and arriving at a valuation of their assets and effects, and he seems well satisfied that at the valuation figures the various assets will stand at reasonable if not moderate cost. I may here state that one point about the scheme is that no valuation has been placed on the Borneo Hardwood Co.'s timber concession, which is well supplied with suitable timber, and will be handed over to the proposed new Company, and another point is that no payment has been, or will be made for goodwill or promotion money. The preliminary expenses will be moderate and include a commission to the parties in London, at whose instance negotiations were first introduced. This will amount to \$7,500 to be paid by this Company. It is payable in fully paid shares in the proposed new Company, so that shares to the extent nominally of that amount will be deducted from the fully paid shares which are to be divided among the shareholders in the China-Borneo Co., Ltd. We had at one time thought it would be desirable or necessary to include in our proceedings to-day the passing of special resolutions for the purpose of placing this Company in liquidation, with the object of carrying on an agreement to bring about the proposed amalgamation, but, as negotiations have had mostly to be carried on by telegraph and there are still some matters of detail to be settled concerning the arrangements come to, it has been thought well to postpone for the present the matter of the bringing forward of the necessary liquidation resolutions. It would probably also be somewhat undesirable in some respects to place this Company in liquidation till nearer the date for the incorporation of the proposed new Company, and the transfer to it of this Company's assets, so, in case you pass the special resolution to be brought before you to-day, which will have to be confirmed at a meeting to be held later on, it will be necessary to call you together again, probably early in December next, for the purpose of passing the necessary resolutions to place the Company formally in liquidation. In the meantime therefore, and pending the final clearing up of all details of the arrangements proposed by Mr. Wheeley, as already referred to, we have been advised by this Company's solicitors that the following resolution will be the most convenient form to bring before you, giving, as it does, the necessary authority to the Consulting Committee to finally settle all such details, modifications and additions to the agreement as may be considered advisable when we get written advices of the same from Mr. Wheeley. The resolution is as follows:—

That it is expedient to effect an amalgamation of this Company with the Borneo Hardwood Co., Ltd., of No. 18, Bishopsgate Street Within in the City of London, and that with a view thereto the Consulting Committee be authorised to confirm the provisional agreement dated the 8th day of August, 1902, entered into in London between this Company by Mr. J. M. Wheeley of the one part and the Borneo Hardwood Co., Ltd., of the other part, and submitted to this meeting with such modifications and additions as the Consulting Committee may consider will best serve the interests of this Company and to carry the same into effect. Before formally proposing this I shall be glad to give, as far as I can, any further information on the matter which shareholders may wish to have. In addition to these remarks I can only say how sorry I am that we were unable to let you have a printed statement in advance, but we have been, even at the last moment, in telegraphic communication with London.

No questions being asked,

The CHAIRMAN formally moved the adoption of the resolution.

Mr. J. A. JUPP seconded and the motion was carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. Thank you for your attendance. A confirmatory meeting will be held on the 27th inst.

WILLIAM POWELL, LD.

The first general meeting of shareholders in William Powell, Ltd., was held on the 13th inst. in the premises in Queen's Road. Mr. T. H. Reid (chairman) presided, and there were also present Messrs. W. C. Drew, R. E. Ezekiel, A. G. Stokes, T. Arnold, Captain Farrow, and Mr. R. G. Heckford (manager).

The MANAGER having read the notice calling the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, As the directors' report and statement of accounts have been in your hands for some time we will take them as read. Your directors are pleased to be able to come before you with what must be considered a very satisfactory report. Circumstances within the knowledge of shareholders have not been favourable during the past year for a business like ours, and yet in the first year of the Company's existence we are able to propose a dividend of 10 per cent. (half of which has already been paid) and to set aside what is, comparatively speaking, a considerable sum for depreciation of stock and fixtures and the reduction of the sum paid for good-will. A reference to the accounts will show you that the sum written off for depreciation of stock was \$9,270.88; for fixtures and fittings, \$729.12; and for good-will, \$5,000. The stock has been valued by our Manager, who assures us that the valuation is a fair one; but as you must be aware a stock like ours is liable to depreciation from causes quite outside our control, and, therefore it is extremely desirable that ample allowance should be made for this in the yearly accounts. During the year the Company acquired the stock and good-will of a similar business carried on by Mrs. Stockhausen. The wisdom of this step has been fully justified by results. In the month of April, having in view the approach of the slack season, and the desirability of personal consultation between our Manager and our buyers in London, it was decided by us to send Mr. Heckford to England. This visit has been highly satisfactory, and the outcome, we are convinced, will be for the ultimate benefit of the Company. In his absence, Mrs. Osborn managed the business with great credit to herself and to the satisfaction of your directors. Having before us the steady increase in the European population of the Colony and the larger number of visitors passing through, we decided to extend the gentleman's outfitting department and while in London Mr. Heckford bought an up-to-date stock and engaged a new assistant who has had experience in this trade. This department will be conducted in the smaller store meanwhile and equally remunerative results to those already attained may be confidently anticipated. The dress-making department has been a decided success and should the approaching winter season be fuller of social engagements than the last, the goods Mr. Heckford was able to select in London should be taken off our hands at profitable prices. Before your present directors

joined the Board the unsuitability of the present premises was recognised and arrangements have been made with Messrs. Watson & Co. for a shop and show-rooms in the new block of buildings now under construction for them in Des Vœux Road. Those premises will be easier of access for customers and will afford better opportunities for the display of goods, and the result ought to be a greater expansion of business. There are no other details to which I wish to direct your attention, but if any shareholder desires further information I will endeavour to answer his questions before moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. ARNOLD—There is a very large amount written off for bad debts; would it not be possible to recover some of that?

The CHAIRMAN—I am afraid there is not any likelihood of our recovering any large amount.

Mr. ARNOLD—Have any legal proceedings been taken?

The CHAIRMAN—In some cases they were.

Mr. ARNOLD—What was the result?

The CHAIRMAN—In some cases we recovered; in these cases we did not recover.

Mr. ARNOLD—With regard to the amount written off, were any legal proceedings instituted to recover these?

The CHAIRMAN—I cannot say off-hand.

Mr. ARNOLD—For it seems to me that every effort should be made to get the money, even if we go to the extent of taking legal proceedings.

The CHAIRMAN—I think they should, Mr. Arnold; but you must remember that we took this over as a going concern, and some of these debts are actually book-debts that we took over and which we have failed to recover.

Mr. ARNOLD—But I mean there is nothing to prevent you summoning these people.

The CHAIRMAN—I am afraid that I cannot give you any more satisfactory answer than I have, Mr. Arnold. You may be sure we are doing all we can to recover these amounts, but in a retail business like this you know how difficult it is to get people to pay cash for small amounts.

Mr. ARNOLD—But there are people in the Colony who never care to pay anything until you have compelled them by legal proceedings.

The CHAIRMAN—I am sorry to say there are.

Mr. ARNOLD—And I do not see why they should not be so dealt with.

Mr. STOKES—I agree with Mr. Arnold's remarks that you should do what you can to recover these debts by pressure. If people will not pay on asking, you should use pressure where it is possible.

The CHAIRMAN—I think we have used a good deal of pressure in these cases. We have tried to squeeze out as much as we could, and these have been put down as bad debts because we considered them absolutely bad debts.

Mr. ARNOLD—Cannot they be placed in anybody's hands to be recovered upon commission. In the case of another company I know that was done. Could not this be done here?

The CHAIRMAN—We might do so where the people are in the Colony.

Mr. STOKES—Of course if they are out of the Colony they are out of the jurisdiction of the Court.

The CHAIRMAN—Well, gentlemen, if there are no other questions, I have to move the adoption of the report and the passing of the accounts.

Mr. EZEKIEL seconded, and the motion was adopted unanimously.

Mr. ARNOLD moved the re-appointment of Messrs. T. H. Reid and W. C. Drew as directors in place of Captain A. Tillett and Mr. H. Humphreys, resigned.

Mr. STOKES seconded, and the motion was adopted.

Mr. STOKES proposed the re-appointment of Mr. W. Hutton Potts as auditor.

Mr. DREW seconded, and the motion was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be ready this afternoon, and may be had on application.

Mr. ARNOLD—I think a vote of thanks is due to the directors and the manager for the satisfactory report they have been able to place before us. With the first year's working we have every reason to be satisfied. I only hope there will be less to be written off for bad debts and depreciation next year.

The CHAIRMAN—I hope we will have a more satisfactory report next year.

YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LD.

The following is the forty-fifth report of the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd. (Yokohama Shokin Ginko), presented to the shareholders at the half-yearly ordinary general meeting, held at the Head Office, Yokohama, on Wednesday, 10th September, 1902:—

Gentlemen,—The directors submit to you the annexed statement of the liabilities and assets of the Bank, and profit and loss account for the half-year ending 30th June, 1902. The gross profits of the Bank for the past half-year, including 544,156.793 yen brought forward from last accounts, amount to 7,224,672.143 yen, of which 5,259,538.878 yen have been deducted for current expenses, interests, &c., leaving a balance of 1,965,073.265 yen. The directors now propose that 200,000.000 yen be added to the reserve fund, raising it to 8,910,000.000 yen, and that 100,000 yen be put aside as special reserve to provide for the depreciation of the silver funds. From the remainder the directors recommend a dividend at the rate of thirteen per cent. per annum, which will absorb 751,000.000 yen on old shares and 390,000.000 yen on new shares, making a total of 1,170,000.000 yen. The balance, 495,073.265 yen, will be carried forward to the credit of next account.

NAGATANE SOME,

Chairman.

Head Office, Yokohama, 11th September, 1902.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 13th October.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

COLONIAL TREASURY v. MUI FUK.

This was a case in which plaintiff sued for a sum of \$74,760, being the amount forfeited by the defendant under a contract entered into by him with the Government and dated 25th September, 1901, for the conservancy work (removal of night-soil, etc.) for the City and Hill District for three years from 1st October of that year. Mr. H. T. Denny, Acting Crown Solicitor, appeared on behalf of the plaintiff.

The suit had been originally called on Friday last. At that time an adjournment was made on account of the question arising whether the case was admissible in Summary Jurisdiction, Mr. Denny arguing that it was admissible as being a forfeiture under the meaning of the Ordinance, the words in the contract being: "likewise forfeit to the Crown."

His Lordship decided that the suit was admissible.

Mr. Denny stated that the defendant had sent a letter, of date 15th September, to the Government to the effect that owing to heavy losses—some \$30,000—in connection with the conservancy contract, he was forced to discontinue it, as he was deeply in debt. The long drought had seriously hampered him, and the unseasonable rain, when it did come, was too much for him.

His Lordship—I think that will do, Mr. Denny.

In his letter, which was formally put in, the defendant further stated as one of the reasons for his inability to continue the contract, that "the robbers demanded three times as much blackmail from him as from former contractors, as they thought that as he could pay a large sum to the Government he could give them more too."

J. Leonard went into the witness-box and gave evidence that he had served the writ personally upon the defendant.

Hon. Dr. F. W. Clark, Medical Officer of Health, was the only other witness. He said that in August and September last he had been Secretary to the Sanitary Board. Defendant was the conservancy contractor for the City and Hill District for the three years from 1st October, 1901. His agreement had been cancelled by the Governor from 1st October of this year in consequence of the receipt of the letter which had just been produced.

Mr. Denny—In consequence of the defendant throwing up that contract, was there a

serious danger of the Colony suffering from epidemic?

His Lordship—I do not think it is necessary to go into that.

Mr. Denny—But I want to show why the penalty is so large.

The question having been repeated,

Dr. Clark answered in the affirmative.

His Lordship (to Mr. Denny)—Of course you may not recover any of this money?

Mr. Denny—We may not recover a cent.

His Lordship—Judgment for plaintiff and costs.

The Court afterwards adjourned.

This sum for the recovery of which decree was given, is, we understand, the highest sum for which decree has been given in Summary Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.

SPORTING NOTES.

The passage of the new rules of the Hongkong Cricket Club was marked by harmony all round. The new rules commend themselves by their commonsense, in particular Rule VI, which states that the general committee may draw up bye-laws to regulate the use of the practice-nets, lawn-tennis courts, and racquet-courts by members and by Naval subscribers or for any other purpose. Naval subscribers are among the first to recognise that the ordinary members are entitled to ask that in the limited time at their disposal for play they, who contribute the bulk of the Club's income, shall get reasonable opportunities for practice—which they can hardly be said to have had, as far as cricket is concerned, during recent years.

The six-a-side competition of the Football Club is proving a great success this year, and an exciting finish may be anticipated. A great improvement is noticeable from the enlargement of the distance between the goal-posts. Previously the narrow target rendered the prevalence of low-scoring a matter of course. The results of the matches so far have been:—Worcester and Clarke drew (0-0); Kew beat Bennett (1-0); Rutherford beat Bonnar (3-0); Anderson and Kew drew (0-0); Wolfe beat Clarke (1-0); Bennett and Worcester drew (0-0); Rutherford beat Anderson (1-0); Wolfe beat Bonnar (2-0); Bennett and Bonnar drew (0-0); Rutherford beat Clarke (2-1); Wolfe beat Worcester (4-0); Clarke beat Anderson (1-0); Rutherford beat Kew (3-0); Bonnar beat Worcester (3-2). Bennett beat Anderson (2-1). Rutherford's and Wolfe's teams so far divide favouritism, the former with 4 matches to nil and 9 goals to 1 having so far carried all before it, while Wolfe's team has three wins to its credit. The two teams do not meet until the 29th inst., when a great struggle may be anticipated, though of course either may be defeated before then.

The annual general meeting of the Royal Hongkong Yacht Club produced a curious discussion on Sunday racing, which perhaps it is well to have got over. No doubt some of the members were surprised to hear that there are people in the Colony who are really offended at seeing yachts racing in the harbour while they rest from their Sunday tiffs. Even the Commodore of the Club seemed to endorse the view that Sunday racing showed a bad example and was discreditable to the Club. It was rather refreshing after this to hear the views of Messrs. M. W. Slade and E. B. Deacon. There are, I imagine, numberless other such abandoned people who cannot see the offence of Sunday yachting. Certainly when we find Subbatarians condoning the Sunday killing of snipe, etc., "because people do not notice it," we may be pardoned for marvelling at the objection to the innocuous proceedings of our amateur yachtsmen. Not far from Hongkong there is a dreadful place called Shanghai where they actually played a cricket match on a recent Sunday. We may pride ourselves that we on Sundays indulge in nothing worse than shooting, golfing—and yachting.

The success which attended the efforts of the Concert Committee of the Hongkong Boat Club last Saturday was so encouraging that there is now no doubt that these pleasant gatherings will be continued periodically during the winter. It is hoped by these means to raise a

little more interest in the doings of the Club among those members who during the summer months seem to have drifted away from their old scene of action. Another crew has entered for the regimental championship, and as it is apparently captained and stroked by a promising young oarsman who performed so well last season, they look like the winners of what should prove a good race.

The lawn-tennis tournament of the Wigwam Club, which commenced last month, is nearing completion. In the Double Handicap Yeats and Trimmingham (owe 30) are in the final and in the course of next week will play the winners of the tie, Man and Edwards (owe 30) v. Comrie and Grey (oe. 15). In the Single Handicap, "A" Class, the final alone remains to be decided, Yeats (owes 30) meeting Woodgates (oe. 15) to-morrow afternoon. The "B" Class Singles finish to-day. W. S. Brown (scratch) playing Sims (owes 15) for a prize kindly presented by Mr. G. C. C. Master.

The first day of the Golf Club's quarterly meeting was entirely spoiled by the fact that the Kowloon Garrison held its annual sports yesterday. Golfers have therefore to be content with three days—to-day, to-morrow, and Monday—on which to compete for the three cups and the pool. The golfer's lot is not exactly a happy one just now on the Happy Valley links, with usually one cricket and one football match proceeding, as well as several practice games and kickabouts. Moreover, at least one of the greens is ominously put up. The Deep Water Bay links are in fair condition since the long grass has been cut; but putties or some such leg-protections are advisable if a player wishes to keep himself free from the discomfort of a *cheveux de frise* of grass-seeds. We have heard pathetic stories of recent visits of lady-golfers to the links on the other side of this island.

Local golf-players will congratulate Mr. McMurtrie on his recent victory in the driving competition of the Shanghai Golf Club, though his winning drive of 196 yds 2ft. has often been beaten by him here and was indeed put in the shade by his exhibition drive of 212 feet on the same day at Shanghai.

A boxing match in which considerable interest was taken in Shanghai came off last Saturday, the contestants being Billy Bellew, formerly of Manila, and a nominee of Jack McAuliffe, who proved to be George Lenden of H.M.S. *Pique*. We take the account of the fight from the *N.-C. Daily News*. Previous to entering the ring, Bellew and Lenden were weighed, the former scaling 154 lbs. and the latter 145 lbs., the announcement of the weights creating not a little surprise among several of those present, as Lenden towered over Bellew; but what the latter lacked in height was more than compensated in solidity. The contest was of very short duration. After a short but merry mix-up, Lenden went down. Rising again, he went for his opponent very pluckily, only however to receive the *coup de grace* a few seconds later. Unfortunately, in falling, he struck his head against one of the ring posts and sustained a nasty cut which, had he not received a knock-out, would have prevented him from continuing the contest. The accident, however, did not affect the result, as it was apparent that when Lenden went down he was "out." Previous to the contest Sailor Smith, of H.M.S. *Whiting* (who is not unknown in Hongkong) put out a challenge to meet anyone in China, and offered to back himself for \$1,000 Mexican. The challenge was duly accepted, so that we may expect another interesting display in the near future.

OMPAX.

The Philippine Army Transport Service have chartered the Norwegian steamer *Proteus*, 1,024 tons, Captain Muller, which arrived at Manila from Saigon on the 29th September with a cargo of rice. The German steamer *Independent* and the Norwegian steamer *Themis* have both been chartered by Warner, Barnes & Co. to bring rice from Saigon to Manila, adds the *Manila Times*. The old familiar *Perla* is chartered to make three trips from Saigon to Java with rice.

GYMKHANA AT HAPPY VALLEY.

On the 11th inst. a gymkhana was held at the Racecourse, Happy Valley, under the patronage of H.E. the Governor, Sir Henry A. Blake, G.C.M.G., and Commodore C. G. Robinson, R.N. There was a large attendance of spectators, including many ladies. The weather was pleasantly cool, and although there were some delays in getting through with the various events, sport was good on the whole. Mr. G. K. H. Brutton fulfilled the onerous duties of hon. secretary to the satisfaction of all concerned. Mr. C. H. Ross officiated as starter, Mr. H. P. White as clerk of the course, and the following as judges:—Mr. H. E. R. Hunter (races and costumes), Captain H. O. Cadogan, R.W.F. (tent pegging), Messrs. G. C. C. Master and C. H. Ross (jumping). The committee was as follows:—Mr. G. K. H. Brutton, Mr. Hart Buck, Capt. H. O. Cadogan, R.W.F., Mr. W. A. Cruickshank, Mr. H. E. R. Hunter, Mr. J. A. Jupp, Mr. J. H. Lewis, Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., Mr. C. H. Ross and Mr. H. P. White.

Following are the results:

ONE MILE FLAT RACE.—Open Waters. Limit 14.3. 14 hds. 10 st. 6 lbs. Weight for inches as per Hongkong Jockey Club Standard. Previous winners of any Official Race extra for each race. Penalties cumulative. Unplaced ponies allowed 5 lbs. Entrance fee \$2. 1st prize presented by the Hon. R. Shewan; 2nd prize, Cup from Gymkhana Fund.

Mr. Master's *Mayfly* ... (Owner) 1
Major Langland's *Weary Willy* (Mr. Gegg) 2
Mr. Forrest's *Vanity* ... (Mr. Mackie) 3
Major Langland's *Yellow Rose* (Mr. Gaskell) 4
Mr. Master rode a splendid race. At the bend his mount was almost two lengths behind *Weary Willy*. The gallop up the straight was well fought out, *Mayfly* eventually winning by about half a length. A poor third.

POLO PONY RACE.—For *boni fide* Polo Ponies to be passed as such by Polo Committee. Up the Straight. Best of 2 runs without dismounting. Catch weights over 11st 7lbs. Entrance fee \$2. 1st Prize presented by G. K. H. Brutton Esq.; 2nd Prize, Cup from Gymkhana Fund.

Mr. Pontifex's *Countess* ... (Owner) 1
Mr. Hastings' *Susan* ... (Mr. May) 2
Mr. Cruickshank's *Belle Helene* ... (Owner) 3
Mr. Crimston's *Banca* ... (Lieut. Thornhill) 4
Capt. Light's *Go Bang* ... (Owner) 5

The first dash was won by *Susan* and the second by *Countess*, neither having much to spare. In the final *Countess* ran a hard race to the finish and reached the post first by a head. In the preliminary heat Mr. Cruickshank's pony got a second and third.

JUMPING COMPETITION.—Over Hurdle, Water, In and Out, Post and Rails. Limit 14.3. Entrance fee \$2. 1st Prize presented by W. A. Cruickshank, Esq.; 2nd Prize, Cup from Gymkhana Fund.

Mr. Cruickshank's *Runaway Girl* ... (Owner) 1
Mr. W. G. Clarke's *Vezation* ... (Owner) 2
Mr. Brutton's *Extravagance* ... (Owner) 3
Mr. Mackie's *Seabreeze* ... (Owner) 4
Capt. Light's *Go Bang* ... (Owner) 5
Major Denny's *The Duchess* (Mr. Pontifex) 6
Mr. Rennie's *Black Tulip* ... (Mr. May) 7
Capt. Light's *Go Lightly* ... (Owner) 8
Mr. Brutton's *Altgold* ... (Owner) 9
Lieut. Branson's *Joss* ... (Owner) 10

There was some good form shown, but little to touch that of *Runaway Girl*. Mr. Cruickshank, although taking first honours, was not of course competing for the first prize (which was presented by himself) but only for the second. The premier prize therefore fell to Mr. Clark's *Vezation*, which was a good second.

TEXT PEGGING.—Three runs. Points for Pace and Style. Entrance fee \$2. 1st prize presented by J. R. M. Smith, Esq.; 2nd prize, Cup from Gymkhana Fund.

1. Mr. Brutton—13 points.
2. Mr. Cruickshank—11 points.
3. Major Denny—9 points.

There were 9 entrants, and the competition was keen and exciting.

STEEPLECHASE.—From the Black Rock, once round and in. Open. Limit 14.3. 14 hds. 10 st. Weight for inches, 2 lbs. per quarter inch over 14 hds. Previous winners of a Steeplechase or Hurdle Race in Hongkong 7 lbs. extra. Entrance fee \$2. 1st prize

presented by G. C. C. Master, Esq.; 2nd prize, Cup from Gymkhana Fund.

Mr. Cruickshank's *Runaway Girl* (Owner) 1
Mr. Pontifex's *Countess* ... (Owner) 2

There was a good field, but the runners rapidly tailed off, while *Runaway Girl* shot ahead, and taking the hurdles with ease won in a canter, *Countess* being 15 lengths behind.

LADIES' NOMINATION.—Costume Race. Up the Course towards 1-mile post, Round a Post and In. The Post to be turned leaving it on the left hand. Competitors to line up in front of the Judge's box previous to race for the purpose of judging the Costumes. Entrance fee \$2. Prize for best Costume presented by C. H. Ross, Esq.; Prize for first past Post presented by Hart Buck, Esq. Costume Prize—Mr. Clark, nominated by Mrs. Edwards.

First past the Post—Capt. Light.

This event was provocative of much amusement among the spectators. The winner of the race had a serviceable rough rider costume. Mr. Clark appeared as "shock-headed Peter," Mr. Gaskell as a death's head, Mr. Pontifex as a sort of compromise between Dick Turpin and the "new woman" Mr. Grunewald as a cowboy, Mr. May as a Walagoo (spelling doubtful), Mr. Corbett as a Chinese of rank and Mr. Branson as a Pathan.

Inspector W. G. Warnock was in charge of the police arrangements.

KOWLOON GARRISON ATHLETIC MEETING.

An athletic meeting promoted by the Kowloon Garrison was held on Friday afternoon at Happy Valley, under the patronage of Colonel L. F. Brown, R.E., Commanding the Troops in China and Hongkong. Fine weather prevailed, and the gathering was most successful from every point of view. About 3,000 spectators were present. Many ladies graced the occasion by their attendance. In the course of the afternoon a fine programme of music was played by the massed bands of the H.K.R., 33rd Burma and 14th Bombay, under the conductorship of Mr. J. H. Moir, bandmaster. As to the sport, most interest centred in the winning of the silver cup presented by the officers of the Kowloon Garrison to the Regiment whose representatives obtained most marks during the meeting: this was won handsomely by the 33rd Burma with 31 points to their credit, the Hongkong Regiment coming second with 14 points. Another feature of the sport was the splendid running of Sepoy Indar Singh I, who won the mile race in 5 min. 4 4-5ths secs., and the half-mile in 2 min. 5 secs.—on both occasions without putting himself into full stride. The opinion of veterans of the track who witnessed his performances was that nothing in the Colony could touch him at these distances. The following were responsible for the promotion of the meeting:—President, Colonel L. F. Brown, R.E., Commanding Troops in China and Hongkong. General Committee: Lt.-Col. J. M. Candy, 14th Bombay; Lt.-Col. W. S. Birdwood, 10th Bombay; Lt.-Col. R. G. Iremonger, 33rd Burma Infantry; Major T. W. G. Bryan, H.K.S.B.R.A.; and Major E. L. C. Berger, the Hongkong Regiment. Executive Committee: Capt. P. G. Anderson, H.K.R.; Lieut. P. M. Heath, 10th Bombay; Lieut. H. W. T. Smith, H.K.S.B.R.A.; Lieut. P. Ashfield, 14th Bombay. Hon. Secretary: Lieut. W. H. Simpson, 33rd Burma. Referee: Capt. P. G. Anderson, H.K.R. Judges: Lieut. H. W. T. Smith, H.K.S.B.R.A., and Lieut. P. Ashfield, 14th Bombay. Timekeeper: Capt. S. R. Stevens, 33rd Burma. Starter: Lieut. P. M. Heath, 10th Bombay. Clerk of the Course: Lieut. B. E. Morgan, 33rd Burma. Where not otherwise mentioned, the events were open to Native ranks of the Hongkong-Singapore Battalion Royal Artillery, Hongkong Regiment, 33rd Burma Infantry, and 14th Bombay Infantry. Following are the results:—

100 YARDS. Entries limited to 2 per regiment. First prize, \$5. Second prize, \$3. Third prize, \$2.

1. Sepoy Sultan Khan, H.K.R.
2. Sepoy Sher Singh, 33rd Burma.
3. Sepoy Muhammad Khan, H.K.R.
3. Sepoy Narayan Singh, 33rd Burma.

Time—11 4-5th secs.

There were eight entries and the first man got his place with a yard to spare; a close second.

LONG JUMP. Entries limited to 2 per regiment. First prize, \$5. Second prize, \$3.

1 Havildar Natha Singh, 33rd Burma.

2 Havildar Muhammad Hussain, 33rd Burma.

This event was closely contested. There were eight entries. The first prize was won with a fine clean jump of 18ft. 11in.

ONE MILE. Entries limited to 3 per regiment. First prize, \$5. Second prize, \$3. Third prize, \$2.

1 Sepoy Indar Singh I, 33rd Burma.

2 Sepoy Jodh Singh, 33rd Burma.

3 Sepoy Indar Singh II, 33rd Burma.

Time—5 mins. 4 4-5th secs.

The winner showed a wonderful turn of speed and staying power. He lay back until the last lap had been half-covered, when he shot forward and finished in good style with 6 yards to spare.

PUTTING THE SHOT. Entries limited to 2 per regiment. First prize, \$5. Second prize, \$3.

1 Sepoy Sultan Khan, H.K.R.

2 Havildar Muhammad Hussain, 33rd Burma.

There were eight entries. The style of putting was not very finished in some cases. Sepoy Sultan Khan emerged the winner with a fine throw of 38ft. 11in. He was an easy first.

120 YARD HURDLES. Finals. Entries limited to 2 per regiment. First prize, \$5. Second prize, \$3.

1 Havildar Natha Singh, 33rd Burma.

2 Havildar Muhammad Hussain, 33rd Burma.

Time—19 1-5th secs.

There were four competitors. The winner led easily at the finish by 3 yards.

QUARTER MILE. Entries limited to 3 per regiment. First prize, \$5. Second prize, \$3. Third prize, \$2.

1 Sepoy Jahan Khan, H.K.R.

2 Sepoy Narayan Singh, 33rd Burma.

3 Sepoy Nadir Khan, 33rd Burma.

Time—59 4-5 secs.

This was a good race for which twelve entered. The H.K.R. man showed good tactics in drawing in his men and, passing them when nearing the tape, won with a yard or two to his credit.

HIGH JUMP. Entries limited to 2 per regiment. First prize, \$5. Second prize, \$3.

1 Havildar Natha Singh, 33rd Burma.

2 Sepoy Sikandar Khan, H.K.R.

Six competitors entered and some good jumping was seen. The 33rd Burma representative managed to clear 4 feet 11½ inches and showed fine style. He was closely run by the second man.

HALF-MILE. Entries limited to 3 per regiment. First prize, \$5. Second prize, \$5. Third prize, \$2.

1 Sepoy Indar Singh I, 33rd Burma.

2 Sepoy Najab, H.K.R.

3 Sepoy Ganga Singh, 33rd Burma.

Time—2 mins. 5 secs.

Indar Singh followed up his splendid performance in the mile race by winning this event with 8 yards to the good. A good third.

HALF-MILE. (Open to Non-Commissioned Officers and men of His Majesty's Navy and Army (British Corps only). Entries unlimited. First prize, \$15. Second prize \$7. Third prize, \$3.

1 Private H. B. Andrews, 2nd R.W.F.

2 Private C. Gregory, 2nd R.W.F.

3 Bomdr. W. J. Webber, R.G.A.

Time—2 min. 18 1-5th sec

Andrews was hot favourite for this race in view of his past records. He lay back at the start, got among his men at the commencement of the second lap and romped home an easy winner by 15 yards. A poor third.

100 YARDS. Open to Native Officers only. A prize, value \$20.

1 Subadar Jan Muhammad, H.K.R.

Time—11 4-5th secs.

A big number of competitors got away to a fine start. The Subadar won a hardly contested race by a yard. Some amusement was caused among the spectators by a pointer dog taking an unexpected part in the sprint.

TEAM RACE. ONE MILE. One team per regiment. A team to consist of 4 men, each of

whom to run a quarter mile. The first quarter mile to be run by a representative of each team, and each member of a team, on completing his quarter mile, to hand on a flag to the next member of the team. The team whose fourth runner reaches the winner post first with flag in his possession to, if the distance has been properly run, be adjudged the winners. Prize, \$12.

1 33rd Burma Infantry.

Time—4 min 1 4-5th secs.

The 33rd Burma turned out a strong team and were early spotted as the likely winners. Their last man came in with 50 yards to the good. All four Regiments of the Kowloon Garrison were represented.

A **SILVER CUP**, Presented by the Officers of the Kowloon Garrison, to be awarded to the Regiment whose representatives obtain most marks during the meeting. A first to count 3 marks, a second to count 2 marks, a third (in those events only in which a third prize is allotted) to count 1 mark. A win in the team race to count 3 marks, no others being awarded in this event. A tie to be decided by the greatest number of wins; if then undecided, by the greatest number of seconds and so on. No marks to be awarded in the Native Officers' race.

1 23rd Burma Infantry—34 points.

2 Hongkong Regiment—14 points.

At the conclusion of the events, the ceremony of presenting the prizes was performed by Mrs. Johnson, wife of Colonel R. F. Johnson, Commanding the R.A. Three cheers for Mrs. Johnson and Colonel Brown, the Senior Officer Commanding, followed, and the gathering dispersed to the strains of the National Anthem.

CRICKET.

THE NEW RULES

An extraordinary general meeting of the Hongkong Cricket Club was held on the 15th inst. in the Pavilion. Mr. E. W. Mitchell, President, occupied the chair, and was supported by Mr. E. J. Grist, Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Messrs. F. B. Deacon, F. Maitland, and Mr. A. G. Ward (Hon. Secretary)—members of Committee; there were also 31 members present.

The **CHAIRMAN** said that the meeting had been called to consider and pass the revised rules which had been drawn up by the Committee. The main point was that the rules had been altered so as to enable the Committee to get a paid secretary. The other alterations were, he thought, of a minor nature. The best plan would be perhaps to read the new rules one by one and put them to the meeting. He would in each case move the adoption of the rule and Dr. Atkinson would second.

The meeting signified its approval of this mode of procedure. Amendments were proposed as follows:—

Rule 12 provided that the quorum for an extraordinary general meeting should be 30 members.

Hon. C. S. SHARP moved that it be altered to 20.

Mr. SHELTON HOOPER seconded.

Hon. A. M. THOMSON asked how many members there were in the Club?

The **CHAIRMAN**—About 400.

The amendment was lost.

Rule 14 was to the effect that every XI should elect their own Captain.

Mr. P. W. GOLDRING moved as an amendment that in every match in which the Club was represented, the XI should choose their own Captain, but that in scratch matches the Captain be chosen by the Committee or the Secretary. His reason for moving this amendment was that in these scratch matches very often nobody knew anybody else, and difficulties arose as to who was to bat and who was to bowl, and so on.

Mr. H. ARTHUR seconded, and the proposal was carried.

Rule 19 provided that—"It shall be competent for the General Committee to invite such Officers of H.M.'s Navy or Army as may be stationed in Hongkong for a short time, as also such visitors as may from time to time be staying in the Colony, to become honorary members of the Club."

Mr. H. C. NICOLLE proposed as an amendment "that the Committee shall invite the Governor, or Officer Administering the Government, the

Senior Naval Officer and the General Officer Commanding to be hon. members of the Club, and may invite such Officers of H.M. Navy and Army," etc.

Hon. Dr. F. W. CLARK seconded.

Hon. A. M. THOMSON—Could you not add the members of the Executive and Legislative Councils? (Laughter.)

Mr. Nicolle's amendment was carried.

Rule 26 provided that—"No rule of the Club shall be repealed or altered, nor shall any new rule be made except at a general meeting of members."

After some general discussion, it was agreed that the last clause be made to read: "except at an extraordinary general meeting called for that purpose."

Except for some other minor alterations the new rules were approved and passed.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman ended the proceedings.

OVER 30 v. UNDER 30.

The above match was played on the ground of the H.K.C.C. on the 11th inst. in perfect cricket weather. The "youngsters" batted first but were got rid of very cheaply and only managed to total 107. With the exception of Toulmin (17) and Turner (23) no one showed any form and the last five wickets only added 8 runs to the score. For the "old hands" Fawcett bowled with great success, taking 6 wickets for 21 runs only, and Clark took two good wickets at a critical stage of the innings and came out with the creditable analysis of 3 wickets for 19. The fielding of the veterans was very fair and it was gratifying to see so few catches missed. Garde again kept wicket splendidly, and, in the first innings of the juniors, did not give away a single bye. The Over 30's, as a whole, have little to congratulate themselves upon so far as their individual batting is concerned, as considerably more than half their total of 189 was scored by one man, France-Hayhurst, who throughout his innings of 106 batted most brilliantly and hit with tremendous power as may be judged from the fact that he scored seven 6's. So far as could be seen, he gave no chance and scarcely made a bad stroke, and, altogether, it was quite one of the best innings that has been played on the ground for some years past. Wynne hit hard for his 23, but no one else showed any form. Moore, for the juniors, fielded splendidly, and made two catches; Moberley made one catch. In bowling, Dixon did very well, taking 5 wickets for 39 runs, and Pearce took 2 wickets for 18 runs.

Appended are the score and analyses:—

UNDER 30.	
First Innings.	Second Innings.
Lieut. Lewin, b France-Hayhurst.....	10 did not bat.
Lieut. A. M. Toulmin, b Clark.....	37 did not bat.
G. Moore, R.N. (Capt.), c Wynne, b Fawcett.....	2 not out..... 22
Lieut. Smith, R.A., c and b Fawcett.....	5 not out..... 0
W. C. D. Turner, b Clark.....	23 did not bat.
Lieut. Mahon, R.N., c Fawcett, b Kelly.....	10 did not bat.
Lieut. Moberley, H.K.R., c Garde, b Clark.....	5 b Constantine..... 7
W. Dixon, c Wynne, b Fawcett.....	9 did not bat.
J. Hooper, c France-Hayhurst, b Fawcett.....	0 did not bat.
T. E. Pearce, c France-Hayhurst, b Fawcett.....	2 b Lammert..... 56
P. W. Goldring, c Ward, b Fawcett.....	1 did not bat.
B. E. Hanson, not out.....	0 c Ward, b Constantine..... 0
Extras.....	3 Extras..... 6
Total.....	107 Total..... 91

OVER 30.

Capt. G. D. Campbell, H.K.R., b Dixon.....	10
R. B. Garde, R.N., c Moore, b Toulmin.....	1
Lt. France-Hayhurst, R.W.F., c Toulmin, b Dixon.....	106
Capt. Fawcett, R.A., c Moore, b Pearce.....	10
A. P. Silver, R.N., b Smith.....	5
A. G. Ward (Capt.), c Goldring, b Pearce.....	2
H. Constantine, R.N. l.b.w., b Smith.....	2
J. Kelly, R.N., b Dixon.....	0
Major Wynne, R.A., c Moberley, b Dixon.....	23
Major S. F. Clark, R.A.M.C., b Dixon.....	7
G. P. Lammert, c Pearce, b Toulmin.....	7
G. Moule, not out.....	0
Extras.....	16

BOWLING ANALYSES.

UNDER 30.									
First Innings.					Second Innings.				
O.	M.	R.	W.		O.	M.	R.	W.	
France-Hayhurst	6	—	23	1	—	—	—	—	—
Fawcett	12.5	2	21	6	3	—	17	—	—
Constantine	6	—	24	—	5	—	37	2	—
Clark	9	2	19	3	4	—	14	—	—
Kelly	3	—	17	1	—	—	—	—	—
Silver	—	—	—	—	4	1	14	—	—
Lammert	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	1	—

OVER 30.

O.	M.	R.	W.
Dixon	14	2	39
Toulmin	7	—	39
Mahon	4	—	16
Turner	3	—	27
Pearce	5	1	18
Smith	8	1	34

HOCKEY.

A practice game was played on the Club ground, on the 14th inst., between teams captained by J. Hooper (colours) and Lieut. Hunt, H.M.S. *Blenheim* (whites). Both teams played three men short, and it is disheartening to those interested to find that men will not turn up for practice games, but only for the matches, thus missing the opportunity of learning to combine, which is such a feature of the Service teams. From the beginning it was seen that the Whites were the stronger combination, and though the Colours strove hard to avert defeat, they were beaten, after a fast game, by 7 goals to 3. All the Naval men played well, conspicuous among them being Carter of the *Tamar*, and Scott, Smyth, and Pringle of the *Blenheim*. Of the Club men, Roberts, Wodehouse, Hooper, and Chater all showed good form, Hooper having had luck in not scoring at least two more goals for his side. It seems probable that the Club will have a fairly strong eleven this year, as there is a lot of new blood with a reputation behind it, but if they want to play well together, they must turn up for the practice games.

HOCKEY CLUB v. H.M.S. "BLENHEIM."

Played on the club ground on the 16th inst. and resulted in a win for the *Blenheim* by 9 goals to 1. The game was not so one-sided as the score would indicate, nor was the club goal-keeper disgraced, as the shooting of the naval men, who have the reputation, and deservedly so, of being the best hockey team on the station, was very hard and straight. It would be difficult to pick out any player who outshone the others, as all played a sterling game, and their combination was simply perfect. Perhaps Pringle, centre forward, was the best of a very good lot.

The club forwards played well together, and Chater and Solfleet at half worked hard. It was perhaps in the back division that the club was weakest, though Parker in goal defended well; a lot of the goals were scored from scrimmage in front of the posts, when clearing being very difficult. The club must not be discouraged by the large number of goals notched against them, when they remember the great reputation of their opponents. It was gratifying to see a fair sprinkling of spectators, included among them being Captain Stopford, of the *Blenheim*.

The teams were as follows:—

H.M.S. *Blenheim*:—F. H. Batchelor, goal; Lts. Hunt and Middleton, backs; Captain Luard, R.M.L.I., Lt. Toulmin, R.M.L.I., and Mid. Smyth, half-backs; Mids. Pringle, Burrows, Scott, Harvey, and A. P. Silver, forwards.

Club:—Mr. Parker, R.N., goal; P. P. J. Wodehouse and Lt. Quennell, A.O.D., backs; C. P. Chater, J. P. Jordan, and Lt. Solfleet, R.N., half-backs; J. Hooper (capt), A. G. Roberts, Capt. Dyke, B.A., Lt. Badham-Thornhill, R.A., and Mr. Carter, R.N., forwards. Referees:—Mid. Money, H.M.S. *Blenheim* and Mr. T. C. Gray.

The *Vladivostok* considers that the time has come to establish in Japan a Japanese paper under Russian direction to combat similar papers subsidised by foreigners, which apply themselves to representing the Russians to the Japanese as the latter's worst enemies, and to promoting by their calumnies defiance and hatred of Russia.

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

THE SUNDAY SAILING QUESTION.

The annual general meeting of the above Club was held on the 14th inst. in the Cricket Club Pavilion, Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., the Commodore, presiding. There was a good attendance of members.

The CHAIRMAN, in his opening remarks, said he was glad to see so many present. He was pleased to tell them that the Club was in a very healthy state. Their finances showed a credit balance, not very large. They were also fortunate in having for the first time in the history of the Club a Commodore—he meant a real pukka Commodore—(laughter and applause)—come to join the ranks and try to wrest the championship from them. (Hear, hear.) Commodore Robinson was the first who had ventured to the length of the new class of 24-footers, and fired by his example he (the Chairman) had followed his lead and was determined to try to win the Cup with the same class of boat. So the Club had got two boats by the best designer in England, Arthur Payne, which he thought was a great feather in its cap. (Applause.) Certainly there was no Yachting Club in the Far East that could boast of yachts of so recent a design as those two yachts would be. The Committee had had under consideration the desirability of having a permanent home. Their recent quarters had not a good anchorage and was without facilities for hauling. At present, as they knew, they were housed by A King at Wanchai, and he was liable to be turned out at any moment. There had been some difficulty in finding a site, but finally they had secured one close to Meyer's petroleum godowns at North Point. The Committee applied to the Government for a site there for the purposes of the club, and he was in a position to inform them that the recommendation had gone home to the Secretary of State. If they were fortunate enough to get it, they would have a very good site indeed. It afforded good anchorage and there was enough room for a yard in which the boats could be pulled up and cleared and stowed away in the typhoon season. There was also a little space left for a Club-house, in which members after battling with the elements could dress and so go home clothed and in their right mind. He might tell them that was the nearest site they could get and they hoped it would be quite accessible in a very short time by the promised electric tramway. (Laughter.) Another matter which had been engaging the attention of the Committee was the conditions under which members of the Club were entitled to fly the blue ensign. Unfortunately the correspondence had not been very well kept under which the Club got their Royal warrant under which some boats had in the past flown the blue ensign. They had now received a communication from the Admiralty at home, but the formalities were not yet concluded, and he need hardly tell them that it was very undesirable that anyone should fly the blue ensign until the warrant had been received. In fact there was a penalty of £500 attaching to such a thing, so he would ask them to take care. (Applause.) The accounts, the chairman stated in conclusion, showed a credit balance of \$59 as against \$68 at the beginning of the year, but there had been some abnormal expenditure which would not occur again.

Mr. H. E. POLLOCK, K.C., moved the adoption of the accounts.

Mr. H. W. BIRD seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the next business was the election of office-bearers. The Vice-Commodoreship was vacant, and he had pleasure in submitting the name of Commodore Robinson for that post. (Applause.)

Hon. Dr. F. W. CLARK proposed the election of office-bearers as follows:—Commodore, Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G.; Vice-Commodore, Commodore C. G. Robinson; Secretary, Mr. M. W. Slade; Treasurer, Mr. J. Hastings; Official Measurer, Mr. C. H. Gale.

Mr. H. E. POLLOCK seconded, and the motion was adopted.

Mr. J. HASTINGS proposed the appointment of the Committee as follows:—Messrs. H. W. Bird, G. B. Thornhill, R.A., P. H. Campbell, R.E., H. E. Pollock, K.C., and Hon. Dr. F. W. Clark.

Mr. C. A. TOMES seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Mr. M. W. SLADE moved that Messrs. H. P. Tooker and Campbell be appointed Deputy Measurers.

Mr. HASTINGS seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Mr. SLADE said the next matter for consideration was the proposed amendment in the rules, notice of which had been given. The Committee had come to the conclusion that the rule in force during the last few years requiring yachts to be remeasured at the beginning of every season entailed an undue amount of work upon the measurers. It was not done in England or anywhere else so far as he was aware. Of course any owner who made an alteration in his boat would be bound to have his boat measured, under the penalty losing every race sailed subsequent to the alteration. But unless alterations were made, remeasurement would be unnecessary. He moved the amendment of Rule 10 required to carry this into effect.

Mr. A. H. OUGH seconded.

Mr. TOMES suggested that it would be as well to require owners to certify at the beginning of each that no alterations had been made upon their boats.

Mr. SLADE agreed that it was a reasonable proposal.

The following addition to the clause was drafted:—"Every alteration on the hull, sails or spars shall be reported to the Hon. Secretary each season before any race is sailed after such alteration is made."

Hon. Dr. CLARK seconded.

Both motions were carried.

The CHAIRMAN said he had now to allude to a matter upon which he had addressed a letter to boat-owners. In that letter he had stated that at the meeting he intended to move that, in future, Club races be sailed on Saturdays, starting at 2 p.m. The reasons he gave were that with the more modern and fast yachts which now competed in Club races there was quite time to sail a course of at least 12 miles, starting at say 2.30 p.m., and therefore one of the principal reasons for which sailing on Sundays was established—the time necessary to sail the course—had ceased to exist; racing on Sunday cut up the day—the only one which a family man had to spend with his family—so that no plans could be made for either fore or after-noon, and spoiled a whole day for what could be as well done on part of a day; racing on Sunday, with the unavoidable publicity which accompanied it, offended a great many, prevented some from racing who otherwise would race, showed a bad example, and could not be held to be creditable to the Club; by way of experiment, the Commodore's Cup races for three seasons, he thought, had been sailed on Saturday afternoons, and he had not known a case of an owner having been unable to start because it was a Saturday. On this matter the Chairman went on to say, he felt very strongly. There was no question that racing on Sunday offended a good many people and kept some from racing who otherwise would race. They would not hold a Gymkhana on Sunday, or a race meeting or a rifle meeting, or any form of sport which entailed publicity in the way yacht racing did. It was all very well to go out shooting or golfing, for people did not notice that and it did not offend them. (Laughter.) But apart from the question of going to church or anything of that nature, personally he did not like to do himself a thing which offended other people. He had set out the reasons therefore why he brought this resolution forward, and he did not think that anything could be added. They would notice that he had only suggested that Club races should be sailed on Saturdays. There were Cup races of course, but there did not appear to him to be the same objection to Cup races being raced for on Sundays. A man went in for a Cup race if he liked; in the case of Club races it was all or none. He moved the adoption of the resolution.

Mr. POLLOCK remarked that the only thing he would say was that he did not think racing should be started before 2.30 p.m., if the races were to be run on Saturdays. If they were to start as early as 2 o'clock some people would be

absolutely unable to get away in time. He himself thought it would be a good thing for the Club races to be held on Saturday afternoons for the simple reason that that would leave the whole of Sunday free. The racing on Sunday as at present carried on occupied only a few hours, but practically cut up the whole day, and left no time for anything else. If the Chairman would amend his motion to read that the races start at 2.30 p.m., he would have much pleasure in seconding.

The CHAIRMAN agreed.

Mr. SLADE said he was most strongly opposed to this motion. If they were not to start till 2.30, only 3½ hours would be left for the races, as they had to finish at 5.45. For a 10, 11, or 12 mile course on a light day 3½ hours was an impossible time. They wanted a good 4 hours at the very least for boats to finish. If these races were sailed on Saturday, there would be innumerable races requiring to be resailed and there was no saying when the racing would be finished if they had light weather such as they had last season. But there was a more serious objection than this even; he believed a considerable number of boat-owners here would be unable to sail regularly on Saturday afternoons. He knew one owner who would be able never or only very rarely to sail on Saturday afternoons. Personally he was prevented on two occasions last year by work which he could not delay. Many others, too, would necessarily have some pressure of work on Saturday afternoons which would prevent them getting away. Let them have the Cup races on Saturdays and the Club races at a time when every man could be sure of getting away. With regard to the objection that these newer boats sailed so much quicker that the whole day was cut up for a few hours' race, let the Club race start at 1.30; and he did not think anybody would be able to claim that the whole day was cut up. People could have their mornings to themselves before going out. On the Sabbatarian aspect of the question that it offended people to have racing going on on Sundays, he personally could not see the difference between going out and competing with other boats and going out sailing in company with other boats. He did not see how anybody could be gravely offended by the Club having races on Sunday afternoons.

Mr. F. B. DEACON was of opinion that what they must look at was, what was best for the best interests of the Club. That was the thing that ought to weigh with them most. He thought, and thought strongly, that there was no doubt whatever that the best interests of the Club would be best served by sailing as they heretofore had done, for it was perfectly clear to his mind, speaking from his experience, that on Saturdays you did not, nine times out of ten, get all the boats racing that had entered. Something was sure to come in the way of someone. When it came to Club racing, which governed the whole season's sailing, a man would naturally feel annoyed if he were unable to race, and he (Mr. Deacon) had no doubt if they had the Club races on Saturdays they would find that almost every boatowner would be in the position of being unable to start once or twice (if not more) during the season; and in such a case a man might readily lose all further interest in racing for the balance of the season. That could not be good for the Club. The Chairman had pointed out that the boats they had would be able to finish the races easily on Saturday afternoons. That was all very good at the beginning of the season when there were good breezes. But at the end of the season, when the winds were light, they seldom found themselves with very much margin starting at 1 o'clock, and very often had no margin at all and could not finish. Besides that it was to be remembered that the boats in No. 2 Championship class did not sail so fast as those in No. 1 class, and the speed of the slowest boat must be regarded as the speed of the fleet. He did not think that the second-class boats could run the course in 3 hours. The Hon. Secretary had suggested that they should start on Sundays at 1.30. If they sailed on Sundays they should stick to the time they had always adhered to. He did not think that most of them, looking at the question seriously, felt that there was very much in sailing on Sunday. They were not parading in front of people coming out of

church. They went away up or down the Harbour, and people could not see them unless they looked out of their windows, and then all they could see was a few boats, nobody knew whose, sailing some miles off. He really did not see how that could hurt anybody or anybody's feelings.

The CHAIRMAN said that with regard to the statement that there was no opportunity for some members to sail on Saturdays, the facts were all in his favour. It was a fact that in the past three seasons he had deliberately made it a condition of his Commodore's Cup races that they must be sailed on Saturday afternoon, and that with the object of getting some day or other all races sailed on Saturday afternoons. It was a fact which the Club records would bear out that no single owner, so far as his memory served him, had ever been prevented sailing on these days.

Mr. SLADE said that last year first Commodore's Cup race had to be resailed. Personally he was not able to go out at that time.

The CHAIRMAN went on to state his belief that if Club races were fixed on Saturdays members would find time to race.

On a show of hands being called for, the Chairman's motion was defeated by a large majority, only four voting for it.

The CHAIRMAN then moved that Club races on Sundays commence at 1.30 p.m. This would be a great convenience to members resident at the Peak. His principal reason for making this motion was that it would enable any person to attend morning services at the Cathedral and go out sailing afterwards. If he were now, as Commodore of the Yacht Club, asked why Sunday sailing was persisted in, he could certainly demonstrate that it did not interfere with church-going. He was sure this half-hour extra could not make any difference to their sailing. There was plenty of time still to sail any reasonable course—12 or 15 miles. He would also propose that they extend the finish to 5.45 in December and January and 6.15 in the other months.

Lieut. G. BADHAM, THORNHILL, R.A., seconded the motion.

Mr. SLADE heartily supported the proposal. It was a good answer, he said, to those who talked about the racing as preventing people from attending church, and would be a convenience to Peak residents.

The motion was agreed to.

The prizes were afterwards fixed at \$800 and \$600 as first and second respectively in the first championship class; \$500 and \$400 in the second if four boats raced, if less than four, one prize of \$500; the remaining \$400 to be given to one-design class, the first prize in which to be \$70.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the first of the Cup races would be run on 1st November, with the usual Ladies' Race, and they trusted the ladies would turn out in great force. On 2nd November the first Club race would be sailed.

This was all the business, a vote of thanks to the Chairman concluding the proceedings.

HIGHLAND GATHERING FOR HONGKONG.

A SUGGESTION.

A Scottish correspondent writes:—

Is it not possible for the Scotch community of the Colony to promote a Highland gathering this winter? It is quite true that any such meeting must necessarily lack the almost exclusively national character of the great provincial Games of Scotland; but it could be made sufficiently open to attract all comers while yet retaining a smack of the time-honoured and picturesque Highland sports. The well filled membership of the S. Andrew's Society and the eminent position it holds in the Colony go to show, surely, that there is room for the suggested venture. There is no dearth here of athletes as well as adepts at the game and other competitive trials of skill dear to the hearts of Highlanders; nor is there much doubt that many a lovingly preserved philabeg would be brought from its obscurity to grace the scene, and as for piping, well, those that should know best give the assurance that the display would not be disappointing. Then there is the Pipe Band of the 33rd Burma.

The Police Sports used to be run pretty much

on Highland games lines, but unfortunately these annual meetings had to be discontinued through some cause approximate to inaction—that was about ten years ago. But during the intervening period the community has grown with great strides and is more able to make an athletic meeting a success. Besides, the exclusiveness which attended the Police Sports would be non-existent. In a tentative way the following events might be proposed, to make up the programme:—

Five-a-side football competition.
Putting the ball.
Bicycle-racing.
Flat, hurdle and obstacle-racing.
Highland piping and dancing.
Tug-of-war.
Jumping and pole-vaulting.
Best-dressed Highlander.
Wrestling championship.
Tossing the caber.
Throwing the hammer.
Ladies' Race.

One might go on to suggest a committee and judges, but that might appear presumptuous. Suffice it to say that there is no lack of good sportsmen and enthusiastic Scots in Hongkong to act in either capacity. As to the time and place, these could be afterwards arranged, but, with regard to the former, a suitable date might be found about the Chinese New Year, which falls upon Thursday, 29th January; that date, too, would not clash with the 'Taikoo Sports' or the Races. The above suggestions are thrown out with diffidence, but exchange of opinion through the Press or otherwise might lead to the successful inauguration of an annual event which would be a welcome filip to the social life of the Colony.

WATER RETURN.

LEVEL AND STORAGE OF WATER IN RESERVOIRS ON THE 1ST OCTOBER.

	1901.	1902.
	Below overflow. Below overflow.	
Tytam	11 ft. 9 in.	3 ft. 1 in.
Pokfulam	4 ft. 5 in.	2 ft. 9 in.
Wongneicheong	43 ft. 2 in.	7 ft. 9 in.

STORAGE GALLONS.

	1901.	1902.
Tytam	292,300,000	359,010,000
Pokfulam	56,400,000	59,980,000
Wongneicheong	253,000	20,991,000

Total 348,951,000 439,981,000

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN THE CITY OF VICTORIA AND HILL DISTRICT DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER.

	1901.	1902.
Consumption	127,291,000	118,318,000 gallons
Estimated population	213,000	215,600
Consumption per head per day	19.9	18.3 gallons

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN KOWLOON PENINSULA DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER.

	1901.	1902.
Consumption	11,878,000	17,360,000 gallons
Estimated population	37,100	58,000
Consumption per head per day	10.7	9.9 gallons

The Government Analyst reports that the water is of excellent quality.

W. CHATHAM,
Water Authority.

Mr. J. Stewart Black has resigned the British Vice-Consulship at Bangkok. Mr. Black, however, is returning to Siam shortly to become a Judge of the Siamese Appeal Court.

General Jacob Smith addressed the Grand Army Campfire in Washington on the night of the 7th inst. In the course of his remarks he said he preferred a civilised enemy, as in the civil war, rather than the uncivilised enemy in the Philippines. Six thousand veterans extended to General Smith a great ovation. A person called Corporal Tanner eulogised General Smith, and said "we will civilise the Filipino savages if we have to shoot Christianity into them." This kind of fanatic should make the American task in the Philippines indeed a labour of love.

HONGKONG.

Apart from the one fatal Chinese plague case which we have already mentioned as occurring last week, there was a case of enteric fever in the Colony, the sufferer being an Indian.

A snake about four feet in length was captured outside the Golf Club building on the 16th inst. It was apparently of a non-venomous kind, from the way in which the Chinese handled it.

We are informed that Vice-Admiral Sir Cyprian A. G. Bridge, K.C.B., has respectfully declined the offer of the local branch of the Navy League of a prize of £50 sterling for the encouragement of gunnery in the China Squadron.

A *Manila Times* telegram, dated New York, 10th October, says:—General Fragg, who as Consul-General at Havana, is *persona non grata* with the Cuban Government, on account of the uncomplimentary things he said about the Cuban people in a letter to his wife, has been ordered by the President to exchange consulates with Mr. Rublee, Consul-General in Hongkong.

Owing to sickness among the men of the Royal Garrison Artillery on Stonecutters' Island, one Company has been withdrawn to Victoria Barracks, from which another Company was removed to Lyceumoon to make room for the newcomers. The prevalent sickness is believed to be due to the breaking of new soil in connection with the building of new barracks there.

The death took place in the Government Civil Hospital at 2.25 on the 16th inst. of Captain J. Rattenbury, formerly master of the China & Manila Steamship Co.'s vessel *Diamante* and lately appointed to the *Zafiro*, another steamer of the same fleet. This appointment Captain Rattenbury was unable to take up owing to the illness which regrettably ended in his death. He suffered latterly from abscess of the liver, and also had long-standing heart disease. The funeral took place at Happy Valley yesterday afternoon, and was attended by a large number of friends. Much sympathy is felt for Mrs. Rattenbury, who was in a state of collapse yesterday. She was the mother of two children.

Now that the Sanitary Department have got the better for the time being of our annual visitations of serious epidemic trouble and have consequently more opportunity to tackle minor sanitary matters, could not the staff do something to stop the dust nuisance which everyone finds so very annoying and prevalent in the central streets of the City? The coolies who are put on to sweep the hill streets clear of leaves and other litter seem to take a malevolent pride in raising great clouds of dust while effecting the minimum of labour. They simply sweep the debris from one side of the street to the other and there it lies until the next man comes along and sweeps it back again. Anyone who has had occasion to go up Wyndham Street any day of late about mid-day must have experienced the unpleasantness. Europeans especially appear to be the favourite victims of the sweeper: when he sees one coming he goes about the dust-raising with a vigour and an ardour which would be altogether admirable under other circumstances. Could not the streets be watered before being swept?

On the 16th inst. was a busy day with the 1st Derbyshire Regiment. About 300 rank and file left Murray Barracks at ten o'clock in the forenoon and, headed by the band, marched to West Point for embarkation on the transport *Wakool*. Their passage through the town brought out a great number of interested spectators. The troops and baggage were embarked at Jardine's wharf. When the embarkation was completed, the *Wakool* left for Tientsin and the North, sailing about one o'clock. In the forenoon also took place the embarkation of part of a draft to the Regiment, which had arrived from Liverpool on the s.s. *Deucalion*, and which consisted of Major L. S. Gordon Cumming, Brevet-Major P. C. Rigby, Lieut. Davidson and 143 men. The other officers who left with the contingent for the north are Captain L. F. H. Morley, Captain J. F. Ritchie, and Lieuts. G. F. de Pledge, W. R. Friend, J. L. H. Manby, and M. B. Webb. Major Denny, D.A.A.G., was present during the embarkation.

Gurmakh Singh, described as a gambler, was fined \$50 at the Magistracy on the 16th inst. for keeping a common gaming-house at 153, Queen's Road East.

The reappointment of Hon. R. Shewan to be an Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council in place of Hon. T. H. Whitehead is officially notified in the *Gazette*.

In connection with the recently formed Literary Club, Dr. J. C. Thomson lectured on Friday night in the Union Church on malaria and its relation to the mosquito.

The new Scotch Lodge at Kowloon will be consecrated and the W.M. installed with full Masonic honours on Saturday, 25th inst. The Lodge will be housed in Chater's Bungalow.

The number of visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum during the week ending 11th inst. was 242 non-Chinese and 85 Chinese to the former, and 64 non-Chinese and 2,448 Chinese to the latter.

A Chinaman has been arrested by the police on a charge of causing the death of a countryman, on the 1th inst. The facts of the case, as recounted to us, are extremely simple, and go to show the disastrous consequences that sometimes attend a hasty blow. Both men were passengers on the Yau-mati ferry-launch on the afternoon mentioned, but as they were strangers to each other no conversation took place between them until the launch touched at the wharf on the Victoria side of the harbour. There the prisoner, who was stepping off first, put his hand to his pocket and, turning round, accused the other man of robbing him. The latter denied the accusation, whereupon the first gave him a back-handed blow in the region of the stomach. The blow was given quite at random, apparently, and carried no great force with it, but its effect, as has been stated, was startling. The deceased dropped on the deck of the launch in a state of semi-consciousness and as all efforts to bring him round or to ascertain his identity were unavailing, two Chinese constables who were at hand had him picked up for conveyance to the hospital, on the way to which he expired. Rupture of the spleen has been certified to have been the cause of death.

Early on the 13th inst.—to be precise, to 1.30 a.m.—an armed robbery was committed on board a junk at Samsui, when a gang of men five in number overcame and robbed the occupants of a box containing about \$360. Two of the robbers were known to the people on the junk, and when the occurrence had been reported to the police steps were taken to close the first loophole of escape that is sought by native offenders against the law—the Canton River boats. In this way the arrests of one or two were effected, although, in at least one case, with much difficulty. The prisoners were placed on a police launch, and one of them suddenly broke away and disappeared over the side. He was an expert diver apparently, for he did not reappear till quite a distance had been traversed underneath the water; even then he was seen for a moment, going out of sight again when he had had a breathing spell. Chinese constable 235, however, showed that two could take a hand in the game, and he took a header after the escaping prisoner, who was again invisible. The constable proved the better swimmer of the two, and eventually came up with his quarry, who was in an exhausted condition. There was a large wound on his forehead, caused probably by his striking something in his flight through the water. This, and the additional fact that he had been swimming hard for twenty minutes, were doubtless circumstances in the prisoner's favour, otherwise the prisoner might have got away. The incident was followed eagerly by an appreciative crowd of Chinese on the wharf. The man is now in hospital for treatment of the wound on his forehead.

The Portuguese gunboat *Diu* arrived on the 12th inst. from Amoy, and the U.S. transport *Ingalls* on the 13th from Manila.

The French cruiser *D'Entrecasteaux* left the harbour on the 11th inst. for Kwangchauwan, and the British surveying-ship *Waterwitch* arrived from Weihaiwei.

The Japanese cruiser *Chitose* left on the 15th inst. for Japan and the Portuguese gunboat *Diu* for Macao.

Three warships were in dock at Kowloon, on Thursday, viz., H.M.S.S. *Albion* and *Handy*, and the Portuguese gunboat *Zaire*.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Chinese Imperial Court is expected to visit Pootung during the tenth moon.

Suen Pao-ki, Chinese Minister-designate to France, is now on his way to Paris, having reached Shanghai on the 7th inst.

Siberian plague, a kind of cattle-disease, is causing the death of thousands of beasts in Mongolia. As Mongolia supplies Russia with beef and cows for milking, Russian exports have been sent to study the outbreak.

New York capitalists, comprising the China Development Company, have just absorbed the Philippine Steamship Line, but the Philippine Transportation Company retains its local operations at their present status.

The driving competition of the Shanghai Golf Club on the 5th inst. was won by our late champion J. H. T. MacMurtrie, who drove 196 yds. 2 ft. 18 inches further than J. A. McGill. G. Ross Young won the prize for the best aggregate.

The cholera situation in the provinces is greatly improving, says the *Manila Times* of the 11th inst. The daily provincial report for the past 24 hours up to 8 a.m. to-day was 826 cases and 635 deaths; mortality of 64 per cents. The report for the City of Manila for the past 24 hours was 4 cases and 1 death.

The following remark from the *Kobe Chronicle* certainly seems reasonable:—A Chinaman named Tseng Hsiung Kuei, who was arrested a fortnight ago for smoking opium at his residence in Moto-machi, 2-chome, Yokohama, has been sentenced by the Yokohama District Court to eighteen months' major imprisonment, while the smoking instruments have been confiscated. While in accordance with the law, the sentence seems altogether out of proportion to the gravity of the offence.

A shocking accident resulting from the collapse of a house in course of construction in Kelawei Road, Penang, took place on the 2nd inst. The whole structure fell outwards, burying beneath the ruins ten Chi amen, who had been at work on it. Four were dead when rescued and five others badly injured. There was no rain and no wind at the time, and the accident is put down to jerry-building. Hongkong visitors to Penang would feel quite at home.

A telegram, dated New York, 11th September, says:—President Roosevelt has disapproved the findings in the Ryan court-martial which acquitted that officer. Captain Ryan was charged with resorting to unusual and improper methods in obtaining information from natives. He ducked the heads of the president and vice-president of Jiminez (in the Philippines) in buckets of water to obtain information. President Roosevelt's disapproval will not, however, affect the findings.

The *Shanghai Union* of the 9th inst. says:—We notice that Mr. H. Dixon, Acting British Postmaster at Shanghai, has left for Hongkong to resume duty in that Colony. It is very much the result of Mr. Dixon's representations that the Post Office at Shanghai has been put on a proper footing. Previous to his arrival, the daily papers and individuals were continually complaining about the Office, the cause of this being the disinclination of the Hongkong authorities to supply a numerically sufficient staff to run it. We trust Mr. Dixon's superiors will suitably recognise his services in having taken away the reproach from the Post Office here—a reproach not in any way due to the former officials.

Writing at the beginning of the month, the *Singapore Free Press's* Sandakan correspondent said:—It is reported here on the best of authority that the present steamers running between here and Hongkong are to be augmented in the course of a month or six weeks time, when the steamer *Prima* will come on the run. She is quite a small vessel, and has been chartered principally for the shipment of timber from Dutch Sebatik to Hongkong and Shanghai, via Sandakan. The *Mausang* and *Sandakan* have proved quite equal to the volume of trade hitherto, and it is not considered that there is room for a third boat on the line. If it comes to a question of opposition the new comer will probably come off badly, for she will find it very hard to compete with steamers backed by such firms as Jardine, Matheson & Co. and the Norddeutscher Lloyd.

A meeting of the Society for the Suppression of the Opium Trade has been held at Lambeth Palace, the Archbishop of Canterbury presiding. The meeting stigmatised the opium trade as a blot on the English name, and an injustice to China.

M. Witte, the Russian Finance Minister, arrived at Harbin, and was expected at Port Arthur last week. Mr. Pozdnief, the Russian Commercial Treaty commissioner, went from Shanghai to Port Arthur with his staff to meet the Minister.

As France and Russia will have from 350,000 to 360,000 tons of fighting ships in Far Eastern waters in 1907, and Japan has only 180,000 tons, it is felt that the Japanese navy must be increased, and it is proposed to build 120,000 tons in the next six years.

The N.C. Daily News of the 13th inst. states:—As was expected, a telegram was received here from Berlin on Saturday ordering the suspension of the withdrawal of the foreign troops from Shanghai, in consequence of the death of the late Viceroy of the Liang-Kiang.

The Chinese officials at Kalgan being so dilatory in forming a police to protect the people from the brigands, the Russians suggested lending them some Cosacks. This so scared them that they at once set to work and enrolled 100 special police drilled by men from Prince Su's new Peking gendarmerie.

The King has been pleased to grant to Mr. Robert Bredon, Deputy Inspector-General of Customs at Shanghai, His Majesty's Royal licence and authority that he may accept and wear the Insignia of the Third Class, Second Division, of the Imperial Order of the Double Dragon, conferred upon him by his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of China, in recognition of valuable service rendered to his Imperial Majesty.

The Singapore Supply Bill of 1903 shows an estimated expenditure in 1902 of \$8,316,542. The estimated revenue for 1903 including amount for land sales is \$7,582,998. The surplus balance of previous years comes to \$1,736,611. The addition of this gives \$9,319,609 as the sum available next year. The estimated revenue for 1902 is expected to reach \$7,540,247. The rent of the Singapore railway is set at \$4,000 in 1903. The Christmas Island revenue is put at \$77,975.

The Association of the East India Petroleum producers, which controls five Dutch companies, has arranged for a combination with the Russian petroleum producers. Both will have henceforth a common organisation for selling their products, under the style of the Asiatic Petroleum Company of London. The latter will have a capital of two million pounds, with a first issue of shares amounting to £900,000. The Koninklijke Maatschappij will increase their capital by one million florins.

A new agency announces that Signor Marconi has arranged with the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs a tariff for wireless telegrams between his country and America and England. The charge for such despatches to the United States is to be sixty centimes a word, and to England twelve centimes. The wireless telegrams, adds the agency, sent direct from Marconi's new agency, will be sent direct from Marconi's new station on Mount Gargano, which is nearly six thousand feet high.

Havas telegrams give a somewhat enlarged version of the new treaty between France and Siam. According to them, "France will obtain the provinces of Meluprey and Bassac, and the territory on the Great Lake between the rivers Prollos and Prekompongiam. The French will evacuate Chantaboon. Siam may send troops to the different points on the right bank of the Mekong which remain Siamese territory, but only Siamese troops commanded by Siamese officers. In the Siamese part of the Mekong, Siam may construct ports, canals, or railways, but may only use Siamese men and money, except by agreement with the French Government. No differential rights shall be set up for the use of the ports, canals, or railways of the basin of the Mekong, or the whole of Siam. Asiatics in the French territories or placed under the protectorate of France, as well as their children may be inscribed as under French jurisdiction at the French Legation and the various French Consulates in Siam. As to other Asiatics, France shall enjoy the same rights as those granted by Siam to other Powers.

COMMERCIAL.

CAMPBOR.

HONGKONG, 17th October.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG 17th October.—The prices are going downward, market being weak.

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.05 to \$8.10	pcd.
do. " 2, White.....	6.80 to 6.85	"
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown	6.05 to 6.10	"
do. " 2, Brown	5.85 to 5.90	"
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.00 to 8.05	"
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	6.70 to 6.75	"
do. " 1, Brown	5.80 to 5.85	"
do. " 2, Brown	5.65 to 5.70	"
Foochow Sugar Candy	12.05 to 12.10	"
Shekloong "	9.55 to 9.60	"

RICE.

HONGKONG, 17th October.—The prices are further declining, holders being firm.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$3.80 to 3.85	
" Round, Good quality	4.35 to 4.40	
" Long	4.55 to 4.60	
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	4.05 to 4.10	
" Garden, " No. 1	4.30 to 4.35	
" White	5.45 to 5.50	
" Fine Cargo	5.60 to 5.65	

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 10th October.—Amongst the sales reported during the week are the following:—

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....	\$83.00 to \$124.00	per bale
English—Nos. 16 to 24.....	114.00 to 120.00	
" 22 to 24.....	102.00 to 128.00	
" 28 to 32.....	136.00 to 142.00	
" 38 to 42.....	155.00 to 170.00	

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.20 to 2.30	per piece.
7 lbs.	2.30 to 2.50	
8.4 lbs.	3.10 to 3.77	
9 to 10 lbs.	3.85 to 5.00	
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. 2.60 to 2.90		
58 to 60 " 3.25 to 3.45		
64 to 66 " 3.55 to 5.35		
Fine.....	5.40 to 7.55	
Book-folds.....	4.55 to 7.00	
Victoria Lawns—12 yards.....	0.75 to 1.40	
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y. 1.90 to 2.15		
7lbs. (32 ") " 2.20 to 2.50		
6lbs. (32 ") Mexs. 2.25 to 2.40		
7lbs. (32 ") " 3.95 to 3.50		
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.) 3.20 to 3.75		
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ to 14 lbs.) 4.20 to 6.90		

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs) 1.60 to 4.50		
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BROCADES—

Dyed	— to —	
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DAMASKS—

Chintzes—Assorted	0.08 to 0.25	per yard
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.23 to 0.60	
Velveteens—18 in.	0.23 to 0.28	

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.25 to 3.50	per dozen
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WOOLLENS—

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.	0.65 to 2.25	per yard
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.25 to 3.00	

Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs.	6.85 to 8.25	per piece
Assorted	7.00 to 9.40	

Camlets—Assorted	15.50 to 34.00	
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches } 12.50 to 17.00		
Assorted		

Orleans—Plain	10.00 to —	
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Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	0.60 to 0.80	per pair
Fine quality,	1.40 to 2.00	

METALS—

Iron—Nail Rod	4.60 to —	per picul
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.	4.60 to —	
Swedish Bar	4.65 to —	
Small Round Rod	5.00 to —	
Hoop ½ to 1½ in.,	6.50 to —	
Wire, 16/25,	9.20 to —	
Old Wire Rope	3.00 to —	
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop	7.90 to —	
Australian	7.90 to —	
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz.	39.00 to —	
Vivian's 14/20 oz.	39.00 to —	
Elliot's 14/20 oz.	39.00 to —	
Composition Nails	61.00 to —	
Japan Copper, Slabs,	39.00 to —	
Tin	77.50 to —	

Tin-Plates	8.25 to —	box. per
Steel ½ to 1	6.50 to —	per cwt. case

SUNDRIES—

Quicksilver	18.00 to —	per picul
Window Glass	5.75 to —	per box.
Kerosene Oil	2.60 to —	per 10-gal. case

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR ANTWERP.—Inaba Maru (str.).	
FOR LONDON.—Ballarat (str.), Achilles (str.), Menelaus (str.), Java (str.), Agamemnon (str.), Benlarig (str.), Inaba Maru (str.).	
FOR LIVERPOOL.—Deucalion (str.).	
FOR MARSEILLES.—Salazie (str.), Inaba Maru (str.).	
FOR GENOA.—Benlarig (tr.).	
FOR BREMEN.—Hamburg (str.).	
FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Silvia (str.), Saxonia (str.), Serbia (str.), Marburg (str.), Suevia (str.), Alesia (str.).	
FOR TRIESTE.—Trieste (str.).	
FOR ODESSA.—Kniaz Gortschakow (str.).	
FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—Victoria (str.), Tosa Maru (str.), Yangtze (str.), Kaga Maru (str.).	
FOR VANCOUVER.—Empress of China (str.), Tartar (str.).	
FOR NEW YORK.—Lothian (str.), Charlesy Tiberghien (str.).	
FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—Arab (str.).	
FOR PORTLAND (OR.).—Indravelli (str.).	
FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—Taiyuan (str.), Airlie (str.), Yawata Maru (str.).	

SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 17th October.—Enquiry for most of our principal stocks continues, but sellers at present rates are still scarce and there has not been much actual business transacted. Banks have had a further important rise, and Indos are also higher.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai, under buying orders from home, rapidly advanced from \$617½ to \$635, and a fair business has been put through at these and intermediate rates. At the close the market value is slightly lower at \$632½, at which however there are buyers. London has advanced to £66. Nationals are unchanged and without business.

MARINE INSURANCE.—Unions continue in request at \$455. China Traders have been done at \$59 and \$60, closing in some request at the latter rate. Yangtzes have improved to \$127½ buyers. Cantons have receded to \$182½ sellers.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong Fires have sold at \$350 at which more shares are obtainable. Chinas have sold and can be placed at \$86.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been booked at \$36½, at which the market is steady. Indo-Chinas have risen rapidly from \$85 to \$95, and continue in strong request at the latter rate with no shares available unless at an advance. China-Manilas are wanted at \$26. Douglasses have been placed at \$41 and \$42, and are now enquired for at \$42½. Star Ferries are wanted at \$21½ and \$11½ for the old and new issues respectively. Shell Transports are without change at £1. 17s. 6d. sellers.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have sold and have further sellers at \$99. Luzons can still be placed at \$11.

MINING.—Punjoms have declined to \$3 sellers. Charbonnages can be obtained at \$600. Jalebus are on offer at \$1½. Raubs can be placed at \$8.

DOCKS, WHARVES & GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been taken off the market at \$212½, and more shares are enquired for. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have improved to \$88 buyers. New Amoy Docks are still quoted \$37 buyers.

LANDS, HOTELS & BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have risen rapidly to \$180 buyers, but holders still refuse to sell. Kowloon Lands and West Points are neglected at quotations. Hongkong Hotels have improved and are in request at \$130. Humphreys Estates have sold at \$12.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have sold at Tls. 39, and are offering at the rate. Internationals are wanted at Tls. 30. Hongkong Cottons have sold at \$17.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements are wanted at the improved rate of \$20½. China-Borneos have jumped to \$30 buyers.

A. S. Watsons are wanted at \$144. Electrics (old) have sold and are on further offer at \$13: the new issue is wanted at \$6.35. Ropes continue on offer at \$130. Dairy Farms can be procured at \$12. China Providents are in demand at \$97. Powells are procurable at \$84 ex the final dividend of 5 per cent., making in all 10 per cent. for the year ending 30th June, 1902, paid on the 13th instant. Philippine Tobacco Trusts have declined to \$40 sellers.

MEMOS.—Canton Insurance Office, Ltd., ordinary general meeting on the 23rd instant. Punjom Mining Co., Ltd., private meeting of shareholders on the 23rd instant at noon.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	{ \$632½, buyers L'don, £66.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£28	\$27, sellers
B. Shares	£28	\$27.
Foun. Shares	£21	\$10, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	£21	\$1, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$35, sales
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$15	\$30, buyers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$20	\$15, sellers
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9½, buyers
China Sugar	\$100	\$99, sales & sellers
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited	\$500	\$500, nominal.
Philippine Tobacco	\$50	\$4, sellers
Invest. Co., Ltd.		
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 38, sales & sells
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 30.
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 37½.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 150.
Hongkong	\$100	\$17, sales
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$12.
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$47½.
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$20½, buyers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$40.
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$13, sales & sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$5	\$6.35, buyers
Hk. Steam Water boat Co., Ltd.	\$100	\$345, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$130, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$240, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$88, buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$130, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$212½, sellers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$182½, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$86.
China Traders'	\$25	\$60, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$350, sellers
North China	£25	Tls. 187½, sellers
Straits	\$20	\$1, buyers
Union	\$50	\$455, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$127½, buyers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$180, sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$12.
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$30, sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$47½, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$11, buyers
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$20, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$660, sellers
Jebebu	\$5	\$1½, sellers
Punjom	\$10	\$3, sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	\$1.
Raubs	18	\$8, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$37, buyers
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$40, sellers
Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$8½, ex div., sellers
Robinson Piano Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$52½.
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$25, buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$5	nominal
H., Canton and M.	\$50	\$42½, buyers
Indo-China S. N.	\$15	\$36½, sales
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	£1	£1.17s. 6d.
Star Ferry	\$10	{ \$21½, buyers \$11½, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	nominal.
United Asbestos	\$4	\$8½.
Do.	\$10	\$155, buyers
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$19½, sellers
Watkins Ltd.	\$10	\$7, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$14½, buyers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Shanghai, 8th October (from Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report). A large business has been done in Indo-China and Lungkat shares, in the former at very irregular rates, while the price of the latter shows a great improvement. MARINE INSURANCE.—Yangtzes are wanted at \$127. FIRE INSURANCE.—There is no local business to report. SHIPPING.—Indo-China S. N. Co. The market opened at Tls. 58½ cash and 59½ for October, improving later on to 61 cash, 62½ for December, 63½ for January, and 66 for March. On the 6th a strong demand set in and large business was done at 70 cash, 70 for October, 66½ for December, and 67½ for January and February. On the 7th there was a reaction, and cash shares were sold at 70½ for December at 70½, and for January at 70½. Sales were made to-day at Tls. 64 for cash and for the 31st October. SUGAR.—Peraks are offering at Tls. 77. China Sugar Refining shares are unchanged at \$99, and Luzons are wanted \$10. MINING.—Chinese Engineering and Mining shares changed hands at \$9.00 to \$8.90. DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co. Cash sales have been made at Tls. 187½ 190, and 187½, 192½ for October, at 196½ 195 for December, and 197½ 195 for January. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares are steady at Tls. 310. LANDS.—Shanghai Land Investment shares changed hands at Tls. 117½. INDUSTRIAL.—International Cotton Mill shares were placed at Tls. 30 cash and 31½ for the 31st current. China Flour Mill shares show a marked improvement, business having been done at Tls. 50 to 60, and more are wanted. Shanghai Ice shares are offering at Tls. 24. TUGS & CARGO BOATS.—Shanghai Cargo Boat shares were placed at Tls. 140 cash and 145 for December. MISCELLANEOUS.—Shanghai-Lungkat Tobacco Co. A large business was done at Tls. 24 290/280 cash, 262½ 300 for October, 260/270 for December, and 290/315 for January, closing with sellers at Tls. 280 cash. Hall and Holtz shares were sold at \$40 for old shares cum new issue. As the new scrip has been issued we now quote the rate as \$31.33. Shanghai Mercury shares placed at Tls. 6½, and Shanghai Mutual Telephone shares at Tls. 60. Astor House Hotel shares at \$28½. LOANS.—Debentures were sold Shanghai Municipal 6 per cent at Tls. 105, and Shanghai Land Company's 6 per cent at Tls. 103 and are wanted, while 5 per cent. and 5½ per cent. issues are offering.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

SATURDAY, 18th October.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/8½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/8½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/8½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/8½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/8½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/8½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.11½
Credits, 4 months' sight	2.15½
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	1.72
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	41
Credits, 60 days' sight	41½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	126
Bank, on demand	126½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	126
Bank, on demand	126½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	73½
Private, 30 days' sight	73½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	23 p.c. pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	½ p.c. pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	par
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	16½
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	1½ p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	1 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	60½
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$11.84
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$62.70
BAR SILVER per oz.	23½

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

October—	
10, Victoria, American str., from Tacoma.	
11, Bjorn, Norwegian str., from Saigon.	
11, Chusan, British str., from Bombay.	
11, Eros, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.	
11, Glengarry, British str., from Shanghai.	
11, Laertes, British str., from Liverpool.	
11, Maidzum Maru, Jap. str., from Anping.	
11, Pronto, Norwegian str., from Tourn.	
11, Tosa Maru, Japanese str., from Seattle.	
11, Waterwitch, H.M. s.v., from Weihaiwei.	
12, Anping, Chinese str., from Shanghai.	
12, Decima, German str., from Saigon.	
12, Chiyuen, American str., from Shanghai.	
12, Din, Portuguese gunboat, from Amoy.	
12, F. Reyes, American str., from Manila.	
12, Hsi-ping, British str., from Taku.	
12, Hue, French str., from Haiphong.	
12, Nestor, British str., from Shanghai.	
12, S. Rickmers, Brit. str., from Balik Papan.	
13, Arab, Danish str., from Moji.	
13, Arnold Luyken, German str., from Saigon.	
13, Bygdo, Norwegian str., from Chefoo.	
13, Elg, Norwegian str., from Manila.	
13, Feiching, Chinese str., from Shanghai.	
13, Gaea, Norwegian str., from Saigon.	
13, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.	
13, Ingalls, American trapt., from Manila.	
13, Keongwai, German str., from Bangkok.	
13, Machew, German str., from Bangkok.	
13, Pitsaulok, German str., from Bangkok.	
13, Skramstad, Norwegian str., from Wuhu.	
13, Skuld, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.	
13, Ta sang, British str., from Shanghai.	
14, Ailsa Craig, British str., from K'notzu.	
14, Foochow, British str., from Canton.	
14, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.	
14, Hoihao, French str., from Pakhoi.	
14, Juno, American str., from Manila.	
14, Melita, French str., from Saigon.	
14, Preussen, German str., from Yokohama.	
14, Rubi, British str., from Manila.	
14, Shakano Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.	
14, Serbia, German str., from Hamburg.	
14, Shan'ung, British str., from Java.	
14, Tientsin, British str., from Wuhu.	
14, Tsintau, German str., from Bangkok.	
14, Yedo Maru, Japanese str., from Kobe.	
15, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.	
15, Deucalion, British str., from Liverpool.	
15, Esang, British str., from Wuhu.	
15, Germania, German str., from Java.	
15, Glenshiel, British str., from Foochow.	
15, Hanoi, French str., from Hoihow.	
15, K. Gortschakoff, Rus. str., from Mororan.	
15, Machaon, British str., from Shanghai.	
15, M. Bacquehem, Aust. str., from Trieste.	
15, Meifoo, Chinese str., from Wuhu.	
15, P. C. C. Klac, German str., from Bangkok.	
15, Trieste, Austrian str., from Kobe.	
15, Triumph, German str., from Haiphong.	
15, Yiksang, British str., from Canton.	
16, China, German str., from Sourabaya.	
16, Glamorganshire, Brit. str., from London.	
16, Ichang, British str., from Wuhu.	
16, Kamakura Maru, Jap. str., from Japan.	
16, Kingsing, British str., from Wuhu.	
16, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.	
16, Lienshing, British str., from Wuhu.	
16, Quarta, German str., from Bangkok.	
16, Ro etta Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.	
16, Simongan, Dutch str., from Newchwang.	
16, Sullberg, German str., from Newchwang.	
16, Taisang, British str., from Canton.	
17, A. Apar, British str., from Calcutta.	
17, Benlarig, British str., from Shanghai.	
17, Devawongse, German str., from Bangkok.	
17, Emma Luyken, German str., from Saigon.	
17, Hailoong, British str., from Coast Ports.	
17, Hongmoh, British str., from Singapore.	
17, Indravelli, British str., from Portland.	
17, Lyeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.	
17, Marie Jebson, Ger. str., from Singapore.	
17, Sachsen, German str., from Bremen.	
17, Shansi, British str., from Canton.	
17, Thales, British str., from Swatow.	
17, Wingsang, British str., from Shanghai.	
17, Yochow, British str., from Canton.	
18, Anping Maru, Jap. str., from Coast Ports.	
18, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.	
18, Hopsang, British str., from Singapore.	
18, Kaifong, British str., from Iloilo.	
18, Kowloon, German str., from Wuhu.	
18, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.	

18, Olympia, British str., from Tacoma.
 18, Salazie, French str., from Yokohama.
 18, Taichow, German str., from Bangkok.
 19, Annam, French str., from Marseilles.
 October—
 DEPARTURES.
 11, Anamba, Danish str., for Canton.
 11, D'Entrecasteaux, French flagship, for Kwangchauwan.
 11, Gaelic, British str., for Shanghai.
 11, Glenesh, British str., for Singapore.
 11, Hongwan I, British str., for Amoy.
 11, Hunan, British str., for Shanghai.
 11, Kachidate Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 11, Kong Beng, German str., for Bangkok.
 11, Loosok, German str., for Bangkok.
 11, Michael, German str., for Hoihow.
 11, Valetta, British str., for Europe.
 12, Chusan, British str., for Shanghai.
 12, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
 12, Kweiyang, British str., for Tientsin.
 12, Tsurugisan Maru, Jap. str., for K'chinotzu.
 13, Anping, Chinese str., for Canton.
 13, Bjorn, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
 13, Capri, Italian str., for Bombay.
 13, Chiyuen, American str., for Canton.
 13, Kohsichang, German str., for Bangkok.
 13, Pronto, Norwegian str., for Wuhu.
 13, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
 14, Bygde, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 14, Frithjof, Norwegian str., for Hoihow.
 14, F. Polyzuelo, Amr. str., for Manila.
 14, Hangsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 14, Laertes, British str., for Shanghai.
 14, Nestor, British str., for London.
 14, Sabine Rickmers, British str., for Swatow.
 14, Skramstad, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 14, Taisang, British str., for Canton.
 15, Chitose, Japanese cruiser, for Japan.
 15, Chunsang, British str., for Tientsin.
 15, Dia, Portuguese gunboat, for Macao.
 15, Eros, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 15, Glengarry, British str., for New York.
 15, Hailau, French str., for Pakhoi.
 15, Maidzu Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 15, Peluse, British str., for Pakhoi.
 15, Thal-a, British str., for Swatow.
 15, Tientsin, British str., for Canton.
 15, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
 16, Decima, German str., for Saigon.
 16, Elg, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
 16, Esang, British str., for Canton.
 16, Foochow, British str., for Shanghai.
 16, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
 16, Hne, French str., for Kwangchauwan.
 16, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
 16, Laisang, British str., for Calcutta.
 16, Machaon, British str., for Liverpool.
 16, Meifoo, Chinese str., for Canton.
 16, Preussen, German str., for Europe.
 16, Sandakan, German str., for Sandakan.
 16, Serbia, German str., for Shanghai.
 16, Tefartok, German str., for Amoy.
 16, Tientsin, British str., for Canton.
 16, Wongkoi, German str., for Bangkok.
 16, Yiksang, British str., for Shanghai.
 17, Ailsa Craig, Brit. str., for Kutchinotzu.
 17, Deuolion, British str., for Shanghai.
 17, Dott, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 17, Glenshiel, British str., for London.
 17, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
 17, Hoihao, French str., for Kwangchauwan.
 17, Hsi-ping, British str., for Tientsin.
 17, Ichang, British str., for Canton.
 17, Machew, German str., for Bangkok.
 17, Sachsen, German str., for Shanghai.
 17, Simongaa, Dutch str., for Samarang.
 17, Triumph, German str., for Wuhu.
 17, Tsintau, German str., for Bangkok.
 17, Yedo Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 18, Astral, American ship, for Sourabaya.
 18, Benlarig, British str., for London.
 18, Gaea, Norwegian str., for Wuhu.
 18, Haldis, Norwegian str., for Wuhu.
 18, Hongkong Maru, Jap. str., for S. F. cisco.
 18, Kamakura Maru, Jap. str., for London.
 18, P. C. C. Klao, German str., for Bangkok.
 18, Prima, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
 18, Pitsanulok, German str., for Bangkok.
 18, Shansi, British str., for Shanghai.
 18, Shantung, British str., for Amoy.
 18, Tiger, German gunboat, for Pakhoi.
 18, Taisang, British str., for Shanghai.
 18, Trieste, Austrian str., for Trieste.
 18, Victoria, Amr. str., for Tacoma.
 19, Arnold Luyken, German str., for Hoihow.
 19, Bygde, Norwegian str., for Chefoo.
 19, Daigi Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per Yuensang, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Chambers, Mrs. M. Fernandez, Mrs. Shortell, Mrs. L. Garrard, Messrs. E. J. Gibbons, J. Torres, A. Bercobitz, Hennage and P. Miller.

Per Valetta, for Hongkong, from Shanghai, Major B. and Mrs. Ash, Mrs. Ezra, Miss Gray, Lieut. ol. Greany, I. M. S., Messrs. T. W. Allen, L. M. Palma, Fabris, Highelt, G. J. Kavanagh and E. Bernard; for Singapore, Miss Davies and Mr. R. J. Williams; for Melbourne, Mr. James Williamson; for London, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Mace and two infants, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Hicken and Mr. Wilkinson and two infants; for Bombay, Mrs. Greany and infant.

Per Hongkong Maru, from San Francisco, &c., Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Beveridge, Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Beveridge and two children, Mr. and Mrs. Allan Cameron, Mrs. A. E. Chapin, Mr. and Mrs. K. Horina, Mrs. Pshii, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. McGregory, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Smith, Misses E. C. and E. D. Smith, Rev. and Mrs. C. E. Spore, Mrs. E. L. Wakeman, Mrs. B. F. With, Dr. and Mrs. A. H. Wood, Miss Wood, Misses Clifford, C. J. Miller, Wilson and K. Yamada, Capt. J. Farron, Col. G. A. Hughes, Comdr. D. H. Mahan, Messrs. T. J. V. Jorge, J. M. Lathrop, Gustav Le Blanc, J. T. Loader, W. J. Newland, C. Stehr and E. W. Tilden.

Per Victoria, from Tacoma, Capt. and Mrs. Ferris, Mr. and Mrs. B. Tidy, Mrs. Winterburn and four children, Miss Kate Moore and Mr. Geo Browne.

Per Chiyuen, from Shanghai, Messrs. Brun. MacDugall, Enright and Brandt.

Per Tosa Maru, from Seattle, &c., Mr. and Mrs. R. Dollar, Misses Armstrong, M. Sperry and D. N. Taylor, Messrs. J. B. Maclebase, A. Taub, G. Fujiyama and U. Takano.

Per Chusan, for Hongkong, from London, Bandmaster and Mrs. E. Bradley and three children, Mrs. Gye and two children, Mr. and Mrs. R. Walpole, Mr. and Mrs. P. G. Graham and child, Comdr. F. L. Field, 2nd-Lieuts. J. A. J. Pask and A. D. Chanter, Major G. F. H. Le Breton Simmonds, Acting Gunner Wilkes, Messrs. G. F. Vospe, J. A. F. F. W. S. Harrison, d'Azavedo and d'Azavedo, jr.; from Penang, Mr. Elliot Snow; from Singapore, Messrs. R. Knox, W. J. Hill, Daliato and Peperuo; for Shanghai, from London, Rev. and Mrs. W. McCarthy and child, Mr. and Mrs. J. Brock and three children, Mrs. M. B. Anderson, Messrs. E. E. Clark, Chapman, Franck, Laight, Moyes and R. Lazarus; from Marseilles, Mr. E. Leuz; from Bombay, Mrs. D. C. A. Andrews and child and Mrs. M. Carpendale and child; from Singapore, Mr. W. H. Jeffery.

Per Taisang, from Shanghai, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Dixon and three children and Mr. Marton.

Per Haitan, from Coast Ports, Hon. W. M. Goodman, Messrs. R. H. Goodman, H. R. White, Puchi, Gardiner and Arima.

Per Rubi, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Marin, Mrs. Berta, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Lomilla, Miss Grandon, Messrs. Chas. B. Rimiger, Victor Denderaen, S. Eguchi, J. J. Racine, G. A. White, E. M. Griffith, L. D. Adam, J. C. Chase, W. F. Holmes and Nicolas Espanola.

Per Preussen, from Yokohama, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Longuet, Mrs. R. D. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Parsons, Mrs. D. Krieg, Misses M. Rostler and E. Barbein, Lieut. Billote, Dr. E. Sanger, Messrs. J. Seiboth, J. L. Hauston, S. Macdonald, J. Lees, E. Warehmann, R. Gottlob, H. C. Smith, John Jacob, Carl Georg, G. Rapp and E. Donenberg.

Per Deucalion, from Liverpool, &c., Major Gordon Cummings, Brevet-Major P. C. Rigby and Lieut. Davidson.

Per Glamorganshire, from London, &c., Mr. and Mrs. F. Jenkins, Messrs. Toyle and Bulmore and Master Wrench.

Per Trieste, from Kobe, &c., Mrs. Ross Daniel, Messrs. A. Gruber, T. Voigt, G. Ludvig and E. Pressel.

Per Sullberg, from Newchwang, Mr. A. MacDonnell.

Per Sachsen, from Bremen, &c., Inspector and Mrs. T. Krebs, Miss Nosah Ryed, Lieutenants J. O. C. Campbell and W. Townley, Capt. H. Selk, Dr. Schriffuer, Messrs. C. Ingenohl, J. Walker, Van Vollenhoven, E. Tweer, J. Mowbray Jones, M. Lira, Lo Beng Quang and W. S. Edwards.

Per Arratoon Apcar, from Calcutta, &c., Mrs. D. Robertson, Messrs. R. Robertson, Maguire, Wilson and Shultier.

Per Rosetta Maru, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson and two children, Mrs. Cwynet and three children, Mr. and Mrs. Lamme, Mrs. Bonus, Mr. and Mrs. Poizant and infant, Mr. and Mrs. Shirakawa, Mr. and Mrs. Broadbent, Misses Rosie Yampuk, Dalva and Reverdi, Drs. Carpenter, Mazzuri, Gumprecht and Lang, Capt. Calhoun, Messrs. O'Rosco, J. C. H. Brown, MacWilliam, J. H. Watson, I. Godchow, Solf, Reisner, I. Haynes, S. Amslon, H. Sugiyama, I. Sonada, K. Tayama, I. Broadbent and Komori.

Per Wingsang, from Shanghai, &c., Mr. McCormack.

Per Kamakura Maru, from Japan, &c., for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. F. Z. Seaton, Mrs. F. J. Drake, Mrs. Mackie and two children, Mrs. Yoshi and child, Capt. Radcliffe, Dr. Wm. Macleod, Messrs. F. Sayer, M. H. Games, R. Bruce, C. A. Edgar, D. Nagatsu, Goshiyokuko, K. Fujii, Kaseiho, S. Furukawa, R. Kobayashi, G. Jones and G. Tashiro; for Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. N. R. Westerhout and two children, Mrs. Hayashi and child and Mr. S. Mackintosh; for Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Ahmad, Messrs. R. Ritchie and G. Nakayama; for Marseilles, Mr. Najier Cochrane; for London, Mrs. E. L. Bethell and child, Messrs. A. G. Sutherland, V. Bannatyne and Master Youngson.

DEPARTED.

Per Wakasa Maru, for Japan, Mr. and Mrs. Showler and two children, Mr. and Mrs. McRoberts, Misses E. P. Scott and Braybrooks, Mrs. T. Matsumoto and two children, Dr. H. Sasaki, Messrs. W. H. Blackmore, McDowell, Lovell, A. Throup, J. B. Mansood, R. Taki, T. Miyamoto, T. Nagano, K. Asano, A. Takamashi, H. Koyama and T. Isuno.

Per Valetta, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Lieut. Macdonald; for Colombo, Mr. Bhowani Singh; for Bombay, Rev. B. E. Faleiro and Mr. Macarebas; for Aden, Mr. Kelly; for Brindisi, Mrs. A. C. Parke and daughter, Mrs. C. E. Schmidt; for London, S. Sergt. and Mrs. Sandells and four children, S. Sergt. and Mrs. Burnett and infant, Comdr. H. W. James, R.N., Messrs. G. E. Hall, T. G. Brown, Spink and R. S. M. Flood and five children; from Shanghai, for Singapore, Miss Davies and Mr. R. J. Williams; for Melbourne, Mr. Jas. Williamson; for Bombay, Mrs. Greany and infant; for London, Mrs. Wilkinsons and two children, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Mace and two children, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Hicken.

Per Gaelic, for Shanghai, Mrs. and Miss Meech, Miss E. L. Glenose, Messrs. Schwab, R. R. Britane, F. Reiber, H. Hennage and R. J. Murphy; for Yokohama, Major and Mrs. Miller and two children; for San Francisco, Mrs. Chas. Wilcox, Mr. and Mrs. Silverman and Mr. Max Stotzel; for Hamburg, Mr. Schatlaenders; for London, Major E. T. Buttenshaw.

Per Preussen, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Miss Beatrice, Messrs. M. Schwartz and Janecke; for Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. N. Stemberg and Mr. J. A. Lee; for Genoa, Capt. and Mrs. W. Meissel, Messrs. A. F. Gardiner and Gustav Perbeberg; for Gibraltar, Mr. J. C. White; for Antwerp, Mr. J. Heno; for London, Mr. E. Johnson; for Hamburg, Mr. S. Christensen.

Per Zafiro, for Manila, Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Chambers, Mrs. H. W. Gye, Miss F. Gye and Master Gye, Mrs. Cucullu, Mrs. N. Cruz and infant, Mrs. A. Lemar, Mrs. Macondray, Mrs. Amclay, Mrs. Cora Grandon, Misses Reyes, C. Santos, F. Wilson and Hyderclifer, Rev. Juan Sanchez, Messrs. L. Milo Palma, J. F. Loader, Andres Pedro Leon, W. W. Clark, P. Celestino, V. Barretto Tan Poco, Andres Yapa, J. Walter, J. Catazano, R. Plows, P. Licay, Carogjar and H. Boxin.

Per Kamakura Maru, for London, &c., Mr. and Mrs. N. B. Westerhout and two children, Mrs. Hayashi and child, Mrs. E. L. Bethell and child, Mr. and Mrs. D. Ahmad, Lieut. A. G. M. Hagg, Misses E. M. Sperry and D. N. Taylor, Messrs. R. Ritchie, Napi-r Cochrane, S. Mackintosh, A. G. Sutherland, V. Bannatyne, J. A. Wilson, A. J. Holland, G. Harman and Master Youngson.

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